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LONDON, SATURDAY, AUGUST 28, 1852.

REVIEWS.

Reply to the Strictures of Lord Mahon and others, on the Mode of Editing the Writings of Washington. By Jared Sparks. Cambridge, U. S.: Bartlett.

Letter to Jared Sparks, Esq.; being a Rejoinder to his Reply. By Lord Mahon. London: Murray.

A HISTORY of the American Revolution by an Englishman and a Tory could hardly be expected to be satisfactory to the citizens of the great Republic. But we were not prepared for the storm of indignant criticism with which the last volume of Lord Mahon's 'History of England' has been received by American reviewers. At the time it appeared, we expressed (L. G., 1851, p. 861) our strong sense of the candour as well as the ability of the account there given of events upon which public opinion even in this country is divided. The American Revolution being treated by Lord Mahon only as a portion of the general History of England, he could not enter into its events with the detail that would be necessary in a work wholly devoted to the subject. A summary of the leading events was all that the historian professed to give, and this he has done in a way little deserving the violence of censure with which it has been met by American critics. It is natural, perhaps, that they should designate as "barren, fragmentary, superficial, and lifeless, that portion of the work most interesting to American readers." ('North American Review,' July, 1852.) But when the reviewer goes on to say that Lord Mahon has compiled his narrative only from a few works of common reference, without study of original documents, and that "he does not appear to have sufficiently informed himself on his subject before he proceeded to write upon it," the limits of honourable criticism are exceeded, and assertions are made which, in regard to a historian of Lord Mahon's diligence and faithfulness, are notoriously unjust. In some details, no doubt, the reviewer has pointed out errors in the narrative, and has also given fair reasons for our desiring that greater prominence had been given to particular events, but his remarks have not affected our favourable estimate of the completeness and candour of Lord Mahon's sketch of the American Revolution. To the general discussion we may have occasion hereafter to revert, confining ourselves meanwhile to the incidental controversy waged in the pamphlets with which the present article is headed.

A charge was made by Lord Mahon against Mr. Sparks, the editor of the Washington Papers, in the appendix to the sixth volume of his 'History of England,' in the following terms:—

"I am bound not to conceal the opinion I have formed, that Mr. Sparks has printed no part of the correspondence precisely as Washington wrote it; but has greatly altered, and, as he thinks, corrected and embellished it. Such a liberty with the writing of such a man might be justifiable—nay, even in some respects necessary, if Washington and his principal contemporaries had been still alive; but the date of this publication (the year 1838) leaves, as I conceive, no adequate vindication for tampering with the truth of history.

"The charge which I make upon the subject is mainly derived from a comparison of Washington's letters to President Reed (which, in Reed's recent biography, are printed precisely from the original

MSS.), and the same letters as they appear in Mr. Sparks's collection."

Besides this direct charge, there are various remarks scattered throughout the volume implying the same censure on Mr. Sparks's editorial labours. Thus, at page 161, Lord Mahon says, in reference to the declaration of independence, "Washington, in his public letter to Congress (unless Mr. Jared Sparks has improved this passage), says that the troops had testified their warmest approbation." At page 299, after referring to Washington's letters about the detention of Burgoyne's troops by Congress, "How far Mr. Sparks may have either garbled these passages or suppressed others, I know not. Mr. Adolphus says that Washington remonstrated with force and firmness against this national act of dishonour." These are heavy charges for one literary man to bring against another, especially in matters affecting the materials of history so important. Hitherto Mr. Sparks has borne the character of a trustworthy as well as laborious writer, and in the execution of a work which his countrymen justly regard as "a national monument of the nation's greatest man," he displayed a patient zeal unsurpassed in editorial records. The work was ten years in preparation, the author visiting the public offices of all the old thirteen states, in order personally to inspect the papers relating to the revolutionary period, and afterwards spent a year for the same purpose in London and Paris. Of the manner in which the Washington manuscripts were dealt with, here is the editor's own account:—

"The whole collection of papers, including as well the letters written by Washington as those received by him, was first perused deliberately and with careful attention. This was the labour of nearly a year. The letters chosen during this perusal were transcribed, and they formed a mass much too large for the intended work. This mass was several times revised, and was reduced to a smaller compass, with constant reference to the letter-books for the purpose of comparison and of substituting other letters, which, upon further examination, might seem to have higher claims, either as preserving a more connected series of historical events, or as showing in a stronger light the opinions, intellectual traits, and personal characteristics of the author. In this way the selection for the whole work was made; and whatever faults of judgment may appear as to the choice of one letter instead of another, I can truly affirm that the task was not performed with negligence or haste, nor without due consideration of every case as it arose. The selection was reduced by M. Guizot to six volumes in the French edition; Von Raumer comprised the German edition in two volumes; and a London editor thought the same number sufficient for the British public."

The Washington manuscripts referred to by Mr. Sparks, we may here explain, are those now in the possession of the American Congress, which are uniformly copied into volumes, "a task," the editor remarks, "which appears to have been performed, except in the revolutionary correspondence, by incompetent or very careless transcribers." It was under Washington's own direction that his correspondence was transcribed into the bound volumes in which they are preserved. In almost every letter, during the process of revision, he made erasures, interlineations, and corrections, previous to the transcription. It had, moreover, been his habit often to send his letters with much alteration and improvement from the first draft copies, which he retained. Hence the

originals sent to his correspondents seldom agree throughout in phraseology with the earlier drafts, and still less with the copies in the transcribed letter-book. In this case there was no resource for an editor but to depend on the letter-book, as being the copy intended for permanent preservation and use, and as having received the writer's substantial sanction. How far this complication of materials affected the nature of Mr. Sparks's duties as editor will be variously judged; certainly the difficulties of his office were thereby vastly increased, and the circumstances need to be understood in order to the better appreciation of the defence now made against the charges of Lord Mahon.

Is it true, then, that Mr. Sparks "has printed no part of the correspondence precisely as Washington wrote it?" Has he "garbled some passages, suppressed others," and throughout "greatly altered" the manuscripts committed to his care, so as justly to be said to have "tampered with the truth of history"? Such was the accusation made by Lord Mahon in his sixth volume, and previously made by a reviewer in an American journal. Mr. Sparks supposes that Lord Mahon has "adopted and repeated" the strictures which first appeared in the New York 'Evening Post.' This it appears, however, is not the case, these strictures not having been seen previous to his own publication:—

"On reading, some years since, the letters of Washington comprised in the 'Life and Correspondence of General Reed,' I was struck at finding in them many important and curious passages, which I did not remember to have noticed in the corresponding letters published by yourself. From thence I was led to make a careful and minute comparison between the two. * * * The charge of tampering with the truth of history, so far as published documents of an older date are concerned, may be resolved into three, namely, of omissions, corrections, and additions. All these three charges I intended distinctly to bring against you as the editor of 'Washington's Letters.'"

With regard to the heaviest of these three charges, that of adding to the correspondence, Mr. Sparks meets it with an emphatic and direct denial:—

"This charge is entirely without foundation. Not a single line, or fragment of a line, was intentionally added to the original text throughout the whole twelve volumes of the work."

Two passages had been adduced by Lord Mahon as unwarrantable additions. One of these is so trifling as to be probably only an error of the press in a single word. In the other, quoted in parallel columns from General Reed's memoirs, and from the Washington memoir, a line appears in the latter not found in the former, and upon this some severe comments were founded. It turns out that the alleged addition is actually in Washington's original manuscript, and was omitted by an inadvertency of Mr. William Reed's transcriber in preparing his volumes for the press. Lord Mahon, having learnt this from Mr. Reed himself, as well as from Mr. Sparks, makes an honourable retraction and apology:—

"I am now most willing to withdraw my charge against you of having made unauthorised additions. I am sorry that I should have made it. I will even go farther, and express my regret that, believing as I did that charge to be well founded and fully proved, I adopted a tone towards you, in one or two passages of my History, different from that which I should have used had I thought you wholly free from such an imputation. For having now so explicitly recalled that charge, I need

surely not scruple to say that, as it seems to me, the making unauthorized additions, without notice, to the original papers of a great man is among the worst and most wilful errors that an editor can possibly commit—not at all, in fact, short of a literary forgery."

With the withdrawal of this charge we think that any stigma against the honour and integrity of Mr. Sparks is removed. Of mortal literary sin he stands acquitted, but the venial faults included under the other charges remain. First, as to omissions. These may be either of letters and parts of letters, or of particular phrases and words. The latter may be classed with alterations, the consideration of them resting on the same principles. As to the omission of letters and parts of letters, the account which the editor gives of the principles and rules by which he was guided in selecting the papers for the press is quite satisfactory. Out of a mass of manuscripts, amounting to eighty volumes, chiefly letters, much had to be passed by. Much of the correspondence being official, there were often letters on the same subject, and in nearly the same terms, to different persons. Many relate to details incident to the subordinate arrangements of an army, such as supplies, clothing, arms, ammunition, and other points, the printing of only a few of which suffices to show the vigilant and incessant care of the Commander-in-chief. Letters relating to topics or facts evanescent in their nature and temporary in their design have been omitted. Those which bring out points either of personal character or public history, illustrating either his private or political life, have been as far as possible given. In every case the addresses, speeches, messages, circulars, and other state papers, are printed entire. Two rules the editor laid down as to the general correspondence:—

"First, to select such parts as have a permanent value, or account of the historical facts which they contain, whether in relation to actual events, or to the political designs and operations in which Washington was a leading and conspicuous agent; secondly, to comprise such other parts as contain the views, opinions, counsels, and reflections of the writer on all kinds of topics, showing thereby the structure of his mind, its power and resources, and the strong and varied points of his character."

In making such a selection no editors would ever entirely agree. It is one of those cases in which any two minds, exercising independent judgment, and acting under different impressions, would be likely often to differ. The most that can be said is, that the selection betrays undue, though perhaps unintentional, partiality. But except there has been throughout a systematic suppression of whatever tells strongly against the American cause, or of whatever palliates the tyranny of the mother country, Lord Mahon was not justified in denouncing such omissions as tampering with the truth of history. On the general question of altering the manuscripts for publication, it will be fair first to hear Mr. Sparks's own explanation and defence:—

"It would certainly be strange, if an editor should undertake to prepare for the press a collection of manuscript letters, many of them hastily written, without a thought that they would ever be published, and should not at the same time regard it as a solemn duty to correct obvious slips of the pen, occasional inaccuracies of expression, and manifest faults of grammar, which the writer himself, if he could have revised his own manuscripts, would never for a moment have allowed to appear in print.

"This is all I have done in the way of altering or correcting Washington's letters. The alterations

are strictly verbal or grammatical; nor am I conscious that, in this process, an historical fact, the expression of an opinion, or the meaning of a sentence, has, on any occasion, been perverted or modified. I can confidently affirm that the editorial corrections were never designed to have such a tendency, and if such should anywhere appear to exist, it must be accidental and of little significance. What possible motive could there be for assuming such a license? Washington's character certainly did not require to be protected by so unworthy an artifice; and least of all could the editor derive from it either fame, profit, or any other conceivable advantage."

Let us see if this is all that Mr. Sparks has done in the way of altering or correcting Washington's letters. Some examples are given in Lord Mahon's History, and others in his rejoinder. Where Washington in his familiar correspondence mentions 'Old Put,' the editor does not add, by way of explanation, but substitutes, 'General Putnam.' Where he speaks of a small sum of money as being "but a flea-bite at present," we read, "totally inadequate to our demands at this time." Where in the same letter he complains of an incompetent secretary, "I shall make a lame hand, therefore, to have two of this kidney," we are told that they cannot "render that assistance which is expected of them." In speaking of Lord Dunmore, he calls him "that arch-traitor to the rights of humanity," and the English people are called "a nation which seems lost to every sense of virtue, and to those feelings which distinguish a civilized people from the most barbarous savages." This we find in General Reed's Memoirs, but not in the Washington letters. Other examples Lord Mahon collects (p. 16), which seem to show a studious purpose to keep back whatever would give offence to the sensitive feelings of the New Englanders. Where Washington speaks of certain shippers, as "our rascally privateers' men," the epithet is left out. When he speaks of some soldiers from Connecticut as showing "a dirty mercenary spirit," the first of the epithets is also left out. Now, we have no doubt as to the real motive of the editor in almost all these cases either of alteration or omission. In his desire that Washington should be regarded as a perfect hero, he is afraid or ashamed to print anything that detracts from the ideal dignity and serenity of his character. When a friend told Johnson that he was much blamed for having unveiled the weakness of Pope, "Sir," said he, "if one man undertakes to write the life of another, he undertakes to exhibit his true and real character, and this can be done only by a faithful and accurate delineation of the particulars which discriminate that character." That Washington was free from angry feeling throughout the long and arduous contest would be too much to expect from human nature. Yet little if any such feeling is allowed to appear in his letters. It appears from Reed's Memoirs that he thus wrote of the loyalist Americans left behind at Boston—"One or two of them have committed what it would have been happy for mankind if more of them had done long ago—the act of suicide." On which Lord Mahon justly addresses Mr. Sparks:—

"For this harshness I can offer no excuse. I am not astonished at your desire to conceal it; but still I must say, that if you will strike out so many of the lineaments, you must not expect to have a truthful likeness. If you will mould only an imposing statue, you must lose sight of the real man of flesh and blood. * * * We in England, with the highest respect for the memory of that great man, believe that in his own true form he is suffi-

ciently exalted. It is only some of his countrymen who desire to set him on stilts."

It is clear, then, that Mr. Sparks has in this point done more in the way of altering Washington's letters than "correcting obvious slips of the pen, and occasional inaccuracies of expression." The alterations are not merely verbal and grammatical as he affirms. As has been said of some other biographer, he thinks that the attachment of an editor ought to be as devoted as that of Tom Moore's lovers; and cannot conceive what biography was made for—

"If 'tis not the same
Through joy and through torment, through glory
and shame."

What Mr. Sparks says about Washington's haste, or inadvertence, or his habits of writing, is beside the question. The world wished to see what he wrote, not what he might have written with greater leisure, and after careful revision. If alterations are to be tolerated on an editor's judgment, who is to decide as to the extent of this privilege? If it is allowable to change words, the meaning of many a passage may also be changed, if an editor is permitted to bring the letters as near as possible to the same state as he thinks the writer would have brought them, had time for reflection been allowed him. Against a claim so monstrous, and so perilous to historic truth, Lord Mahon, as a fellow labourer in the same field of literature, protests with a force which increases, if possible, our confidence in his own judgment and impartiality. The discussion on the duties and limits of editorial power is not the least important point in the present controversy. Between the principles laid down by Lord Mahon and those laid down by Mr. Sparks there is wide difference; nor do we think that, in this country, there will be any difficulty in deciding which most accord with English ideas of truth and honour. The 'North American Review' exhibits, on this part of the argument, a littleness and vulgarity of feeling with which, we hope, few of its readers will sympathize. The defence of altering for the press is here pushed to a length far beyond what Mr. Sparks has advocated, and in a way which weakens rather than strengthens his case. It is said, for instance, that "the great public has a prurient curiosity to see a great man in *deshabille*." This curiosity ought not to be indulged, and an editor, it seems, does right in "preventing the unclad mind from being gibbeted by the highway for the inspection of passers-by, just as a man may reasonably dislike the thought of having his dead body exposed to a mob of students on a dissecting-table." In the omission of the epithets 'rascally,' 'dirty,' and of the metaphors of the 'flea-bite' and the 'lame hand,' the reviewer sees only a literary decency, which is shocked by phrases tolerable to the grosser taste of Englishmen. Mr. Sparks's emendations, it would seem, are made on the same principle which led some ladies of Cincinnati to put trousers on the legs of their pianos! As the Americans are models as to rules of morality, so are they as to rules of rhetoric. "Lord Castlereagh was a great man, besides being an English university man; but he is reported to have spoken in his place in Parliament of 'the honourable gentleman on the other side, who, crocodile-like, put his hands in his breeches pocket and wept.'" "Does Lord Mahon," the reviewer goes on to ask, "think that an editor of Lord Castlereagh's speeches is bound to embalm such expressions?" No

doubt he does, and the reader of history would be sorry to lose even the most trifling, but characteristic, traits of public men. How wretched would be the records of our own Parliamentary debates, if the speeches were all subjected to the tender mercies of some American censor like Mr. Sparks, who was to omit or alter whatever characteristic phrases of each speaker seemed to him to offend either against rhetoric or taste! The reviewers in the West would have the characters of men treated as in the East they treat the persons of their harem slaves—a simile employed by Lord Mahon, which the American reviewer, had he been licenser of the press, would have expunged on the score of decency or taste, in order to avoid its point and force.

On a review of the whole controversy, while Mr. Sparks is hardly guilty of the grave charge of literary forgery, which was made with unseemly rashness by Lord Mahon, and which he has subsequently withdrawn, we cannot acquit him of the minor charges of defective judgment and undue partiality. To his own standard of taste he has often endeavoured to adapt the correspondence of Washington. In this, if he has not tampered with the truth of history, he has tampered with the faithfulness of biography. He has made an exhibition of national vanity and of morbid taste in dealing with Washington's character, and with some points of the American war of independence, unworthy of the greatness of the subject, and inconsistent with the general fairness and ability with which his work is executed. Further than this we cannot go with Lord Mahon in his charges, considering the way in which Washington's correspondence was conducted, and the acknowledged variations in copies of the same letters which have been preserved. The matter would have been worse had the manuscripts been, like the Sybilline books, no longer available for public use. The papers of Washington are in the possession of the American government, and are open to the examination of all who may hereafter consult them for historical research. Future editors may make use of other letters than those which have been published, still we cannot agree with Lord Mahon in regarding Mr. Sparks's work as wholly unworthy of confidence, on the ground of his having tampered with the truth of history. To the writers either of biography or history, a lesson of caution and of truthfulness has been supplied, which makes us less regret the occurrence of this unpleasant controversy.

Journal of a Voyage in Baffin's Bay and Barrow Straits in the Years 1850-51. By Peter Sutherland, M.D. Longman & Co.

[Second Notice.]

WHEN we parted with Dr. Sutherland and Captain Penny, a fortnight since, at Beechy Island, on the track of Sir John Franklin, the Commander was preparing to cross the mouth of Wellington Channel, with the object of wintering in Assistance Harbour, at the opposite corner. The autumn was too far advanced to think of renewing the search until the following year. The declining sun was giving warning of a long arctic night of four months' duration, the ice was increasing in strength, the ships must be removed to a place of shelter before they got frozen in;—and, hopes being turned in the direction of Wellington Channel, Assistance Bay, at the southern extremity of Cornwallis Land,

was selected as affording a convenient starting point for the sledge parties that were to be equipped in the ensuing spring. The process of banking up the *Lady Franklin* and *Sophia* with snow, and covering in the decks with tarpaulin, commenced with great glee. Snow cut out of the mass on the hill-side in large blocks was sledged to the ships amid shouting and tumbling, and games on the ice were the order of the day. Instead of being roused to a sense of fear of the approaching intensity of cold, all were looking forward to the snugness of winter quarters. As darkness began to prevail, increasing exertions were made for the relaxation and amusement of the crew. A 'Royal Cornwallis Theatre' was founded, in which dramatic performances were given after the manner described in our notice of 'The Illustrated Arctic News,' and an Arctic Academy was instituted, in which it appears many of the seamen became learned in logarithms and physical geography before they had learned to write their own names:—

"The printing press which had been provided for us before leaving home by the kindness of some friends was very useful in printing the bills, announcing in detail each of the performances, and giving fictitious names by which the characters were to be sustained. One of the most amusing of the songs was that of 'Shon McNab,' and it pleased so well, that scarcely a 'theatre night' was permitted to pass without it; so well indeed, that 'special requests' for it became very common, and the person who represented the original 'Shon,' although not a Highlander, became a general favourite with men and masters, but with none more than with Sir John Ross. The dresses for some of these occasions could not be got up very sumptuously; however, some calico (both black and white) which had been supplied to the Expedition by the extreme kindness of Mr. Smith, for the purpose of making kites, became very useful in this way, without interfering with its usefulness and application to the purposes which its generous donor had originally intended.

"The school was conducted four nights in the week, and three hours each night, in the half decks, by the medical officers of both ships; and, generally speaking, the men appeared to be very desirous to improve in the various branches of a common school education. Reading, writing, and arithmetic, were attended to, and, occasionally, geography was introduced. Some of them were really very ignorant; and those were the persons who were least desirous to learn anything that cost them an effort. It was heartless work for the man of thirty-five, who had been married for fifteen years, to sit for hours together poring over the simplest arithmetical calculations. There were about a dozen in the 'Sophia' who gave fair promises that before winter was over they should be able to work a lunar distance, or navigate a ship to any part of the world. They all appeared to be interested in geography; and although we were very deficient in geographical books and maps, having only one very old map of the world, and a single copy of that excellent work, 'Johnston's Physical Atlas,' which did not belong to the ship, it was astonishing with what facility a very correct idea of the form of the earth, the distribution of land and water, the sources, directions, and terminations of the rivers, the mountain chains, with their heights, the extent and boundaries of kingdoms, the distribution of heat and cold, of animals, and of the varieties of the human race, was obtained by persons who could hardly sign their names, when practical illustrations of the various subjects were made."

Towards the latter part of January the cold increased to a degree of intensity truly astonishing. It was ascertained by Pastorelli's spirit thermometer, for the mercury of Fahrenheit was frozen up, and as solid as a leaden bullet, to be 40° below zero—

72° below the freezing point of water. Even under cover, between decks, the temperature was 10° below zero of Fahrenheit. The stock of lime-juice, vinegar, porter, and ale was frozen in the casks, the essential and watery parts having separated in the process of congelation, and the contents of the medicine chest were much beyond the condition in which they could be administered if wanted, which, fortunately, they were not. The castor-oil became as hard as horn, and the syrups were in such solid masses, that nothing was lost by the breaking of the bottles. Preparations were now made for sledging. Six parties were formed, and each sledge, equipped with provisions for forty days, and weighing about 1500 pounds, was drawn by seven men. Each had its name and motto:—'Union,' *Dum spiro spero*; 'Sylph,' *Palmarum qui meruit ferat*; 'Perseverance,' *Pas à pas on va bien loin*, and so on; and all started at once. Dr. Sutherland gives a very detailed and interesting account of the journey to which he was attached, much of the distance being accomplished by sledging over the ice with a light boat, which was launched on meeting with open water. Sometimes the party had to wade through water knee-deep, and many were the hardships to be endured from frost bites and snow blindness. The least opening of the eyelids under these circumstances caused excruciating pain, when water would gush out and freeze into an icicle while trickling down the cheek. At night a hut was formed of the boat and sledge, and each traveller retired into his blanket bag, sure of the enjoyment of repose, and buoyed up ever and anon with the hope that another day might bring him upon the track of the missing adventurers. The following may be quoted as an example of the effect of cold in these regions upon metal:—

"It was necessary to be very careful with our drinking cups. Tin never suited, for it always adhered to the lips, and took a portion of the skin along with it. A dog attempting to lick a little fat from an iron shovel, stuck fast to it, and dragged it by means of his tongue, until, by a sudden effort, he got clear, leaving several inches of the skin and subjacent tissue on the cold metal. One of the seamen endeavouring to change the size of the eye of the splice in his track-rope, put the marling-spike, after the true sailor-fashion, into his mouth; the result was, that he lost a great portion of the skin of his lips and tongue."

We shall now refer to the chief of these sledge-excursions for the sake of showing that they came to a stop only from meeting with the very conditions most favourable for following up the search. Wellington Channel was examined on both sides to the furthest point in 76½° N. lat.; open water prevailed as far as the eye could reach, both with the aid of refraction and the peculiar tint in the sky indicative of water, and nothing was wanting but a well-provisioned steamer, such as Capt. Austin was solicited in the following summer to furnish, and obstinately or blindly refused, to do the work which Sir Edward Belcher, after the loss of another year, has gone to do. Mr. Goodwin, during an absence of 43 days from the ships, performed a journey along the north shore of Cornwallis Land, which borders Victoria Channel, and found it impossible to advance for open water:—

"The water was first seen by him about the 20th of May from the vicinity of Disappointment Bay; and from that time to the 1st of June he continued to advance, keeping close along the land for fear of getting adrift among the loose ice, or of

falling through where it was very much decayed. Seals and walruses were seen by him and his party both in the water and on the ice; and they also saw a great many bears, hares, and deer, of all of which they succeeded in shooting some."

Dr. Sutherland's progress was arrested from the same cause, farther north, in Hamilton Island:—

"Petersen and I set off to a point several miles farther along, making sure that we should find traces of the missing ships in the shape of a cairn. The point is a very low one, and there was immensely pressed up ice upon it. But, lo and behold! to our surprise a strait, and nothing but clear water opened out before us. The tide seemed to be going at a very rapid rate, I should say not less than four knots. This channel or strait is about eight miles in breadth, and ten miles in length from east to west. The point on which we then stood was called Point Surprise, from the sudden appearance to our view of so large an extent of water. * * *

"At 2 A.M. we turned into our sleeping bags, and had eight hours very comfortable sleep. After breakfast, which was prepared by Thompson, and a comfortable wash, which was equally necessary, I got a meridian altitude, which gave the latitude of Point Surprise four miles farther north, about 76° , that of our position being $75^{\circ} 55' 43''$. Sir James C. Ross said he would give one thousand pounds for ten days' provisions; I certainly should have given five thousand pounds for a boat, to follow up the search for Sir J. Franklin. How pleasant to the eye it is to see the blue open water! Mr. Petersen and I set out again for Point Surprise, and while I was laying down the bearings of the points and islands by the compass card and the sun, I sent him back to let Thompson, our only attendant, see the expanse of water, from this point, whence only the strait could be opened out. As we were thus employed going back and forth, and making a tracing of the coasts, two walruses sailed past, upon a piece of ice, at the rate of at least three knots. Two eider ducks and some burgoasters flew past at the same time. Here we had creatures that we could only have expected ten degrees farther south, at such an early date. I shall never plume myself upon experience again. Light ice and twenty-five miles (all the way to Baring Island, and far beyond Cape Crozier) of open water; and from the appearance of the sky, at least twenty-five miles more beyond the north point of the strait. To have proceeded northward could only be accomplished by making a very large circuit; and for this we had but barely two days' provisions for the dogs. Our own provision might last for twelve days; but should we be under the necessity of serving it out to eighteen or twenty ravenous dogs, it would certainly not last three days. We might shoot seals or walruses, and birds in the water; but where was the boat to pick them up in such rapid tides. No alternative remained but to return to the ships, and see if, by any means, a boat could be got into the open water, which was so unexpectedly discovered."

The farthest point reached was Cape Becher. The land added to the chart beyond is derived from what was surveyed from this spot:—

"After travelling about five miles farther north, I opened out a splendid bay (Sir R. H. Inglis Bay), which would suit well for a winter harbour. From the point where I stood, at an elevation of six to eight hundred feet, nothing could be seen to the N.W. but open water and a watery sky. The coast was bold, and led away N.W. The most distant part of it that I could discern was named Cape Sir J. Franklin, and it appeared to be a few miles beyond latitude 77° and longitude 100° . To the south-eastward of this cape the coast disappears for upwards of twenty-five miles, until it reaches a second bold point, which I named Cape Sophia, after the niece of Sir John Franklin. From Cape Sophia it could be traced to Cape Becher, in the vicinity of which I stood. * * *

"I erected a cairn, and took another view of

the expanse of water that was before my eyes—oh, to have been here only with my two little vessels, what could we not have done in the way of search? but I greatly fear, if we had, the missing ships are beyond our reach. That there is a large Arctic Sea beyond this channel, in which the ice is constantly in motion, there can be no doubt: for where could all the ice have gone to? where does the comparatively fresh driftwood come from? It must be from America or Siberia, and that through a body of drifting ice. Had Sir John Franklin left documents, surely he would have done so upon this headland or Dundas Island. We found none; Mr. Stewart was in the same state; we were all in the same predicament as when winter quarters were discovered by us in August 1850. At midnight we turned into our sleeping bags."

"It was a severe struggle," says Dr. Sutherland, "to leave the search, but no other course was left. Would it be prudent to continue to proceed further with only one week's provisions?" Captain Penny's party was the last to return home. On comparing notes, it was found that the six expeditions had traversed 2000 miles of country, 710 miles of which were newly discovered, and had to be added for the first time to the existing charts of the Polar Seas.

About the middle of August, when the ice was beginning to break up, Captain Austin's squadron, which had been wintering about twenty miles off at Griffith Island, came steaming into Assistance Bay, and a consultation was held between the two commanders with respect to future movements. As to the course of the lost voyagers, and a piece of elm which he had discovered, Captain Penny "had but one idea on the subject, and that was, that it had come from the missing ships, which he believed had gone to the westward in clear water, far beyond the most distant point that he had been able to reach with his boat." Captain Austin, however, "anticipated that a second winter would shake very materially the health of the crews," and was not to be persuaded to run another year's risk of catching cold:—

"The piece of elm failed; and from the absence of deposited records, all that Mr. Penny could or did say, failed to convince him of even the faintest probability that the missing ships had taken that route. He gave his opinion, that had he done exactly what Mr. Penny's expedition had done, and were he placed in the position which Mr. Penny occupied, he should not hesitate to conclude at once that the search for the missing ships need not be prosecuted to the north-west of their winter quarters at Beechey Island,—a direction which he believed they had never taken."

Could anything, after the evidence revealed in these pages, be more preposterous? Captain Penny was forced to submit to the decision of his superior, and the explorers returned home to their maternal land. It has been affirmed that the lost mariners may yet be prolonging their existence upon the produce of a circumpolar fauna. Will any one believe this on the faith of a tradition almost as plausible as that of Robinson Crusoe, seeing the difficulty that Dr. Sutherland and his sledging party had to keep even their dogs alive while on a journey at the most favourable season of the year; the dogs could not sustain themselves upon what they could catch, although their keepers chased a bear or a seal with the keenest avidity, to save their stock of provisions. At one time, when provisions were running short, and the dogs had been famished for four-and-twenty hours, their lives were only saved by Mr. Petersen dividing his seal-skin dress among them for food.

We have been greatly pleased with this second volume of Dr. Sutherland's journal. Being on newer ground, the author's detailed habits of observation have proved to be of the highest interest.

Historical and Statistical Information respecting the History, Condition, and Prospects of the Indian Tribes of the United States. By Henry Schoolcraft, LL.D. 4to. Philadelphia.

THIS is a work in every respect worthy of an enlightened and great nation. With a proper appreciation of the desirableness of preserving the ethnological history of their country, the United States Government instructed Dr. Schoolcraft, their census commissioner, to collect and digest such statistics and materials as should illustrate the history, present condition, and future prospects of the Indian tribes of the United States, and the result is the present large and interesting volume. Dr. Schoolcraft is well qualified for his task. He has had unusual opportunities of studying the habits of the Indians, having spent thirty years in the forests and plains inhabited by the red race. His peculiar position, arising from his having married a highly educated lady whose grandfather was a distinguished aboriginal king, had the effect of breaking down towards himself individually the eternal distrust and suspicion of the Indian mind, and to open the most secret arcana of his hopes and fears, as imposed by his mysterious religion, and as revealed by his extraordinary acts and wonderful character. In addition to these advantages, the author has brought an intense love of his subject to bear on his undertaking. He states that he has devoted days and nights to his ethnological researches, when without this motive to exertion they would have passed as a blank in the remotest forests, and thus, while the wilderness appears to many a place of wearisome solitude, to him it wore the semblance of the choicest recesses of an academic study.

The red man of North America is fast merging into past history, for although the United States Government maintains relations with about seventy tribes who occupy the continental area east of the Rocky Mountains, their numbers are rapidly diminishing. It is therefore particularly desirable that authentic accounts should be preserved of the present condition of a race whose early history is lost in the wild mutations of men. Nor can such accounts be uninteresting, for the aborigines of North America present many noble and disinterested traits. The simplicity of their eloquence has challenged admiration. Higher principles of devotion to what they believe to be cardinal virtues no people ever evinced. Faith has furnished the christian martyr with motives to sustain him at the stake; but the North American Indian has endured the keenest torments of fire without the consolations of the gospel. Civilized nations are cheered on their way to face the cannon's mouth by martial and inspiring music; but the warrior of the forest requires no roll of the drum nor trumpet blast to animate his steps. The aboriginal history of the North American continent is more celebrated for its fables than its facts. Having no chronological system, the hunting tribes of that vast country can give no other account of their ancestors than shadowy myths and wild crudities. Philosophical research, however,

shows that the red race are ancient in their occupancy of their country.

"There are probably," says Dr. Schoolcraft, "ruins in North America which date within five hundred years of the foundation of Babylon. Of all races on the face of the earth the Indians have apparently changed the least, and have preserved their physical and mental type with the fewest alterations. They continue to reproduce themselves as a race, even when their manners are comparatively polished and their intellects enlightened, as if they were bound by the iron fetters of an unchanging type. As a race there never was one more impracticable, more bent on a nameless principle of *tribality*, more averse to combinations for their general good, more deaf to the voice of instruction, more determined to pursue all the elements of their own destruction. They are still, as a body, nomadic in their manners and customs. They appear to have trampled on monumental ruins, some of which had their origin before their arrival, or without their participation as builders, though these are apparently ruins of the same generic race of men, but of a prior era. They live in a wild belief of the ancient theory of a diurgus, or soul of the universe, which inhabits and animates every thing. They recognise their Great Spirit in rocks, trees, cataracts, and clouds; in thunder and lightning; in the strongest tempests and the softest zephyrs; and he is supposed to exist under every possible form in the world, animate or inanimate."

Dr. Schoolcraft enters critically into an examination of the traditions respecting the origin of the Indians, the perusal of which will abundantly repay the ethnologist. It is not a little remarkable, that although the various tribes have as various allegorical traditions of their ancestors, they all agree in believing that the Great Spirit sent the white men to destroy them. It is certain that the red man regards his white brother as a superior being, however inferior he may be to him in stature or in physical strength; he is willing to obey him and to serve him, though he refuses to adopt his customs. When the Pawnee chiefs had an interview with the President of the United States, at Washington, thirty years ago, on the subject of having missionaries sent among their tribe to change their habits, the 'unlettered' savage who appeared for his people thus addressed the President:—

"My Great Father, I am going to speak the truth, the Great Spirit looks down upon us. He made us all, but He made my skin red and yours white. He placed us on this earth, and intended that we should live differently from each other. He made the whites to cultivate the earth and feed on tame animals, but He made us red men to rove through the woods and plains, to feed on wild animals, and to dress in their skins. He also intended that we should go to war to take scalps, steal horses, triumph over our enemies, promote peace at home, and the happiness of each other. We have no large houses as you have. If we had them to-day, we should want others to-morrow, because we have not like you a fixed habitation, except our villages, where we remain but two moons out of twelve. We, like animals, roam over the country, while you whites live between us and Heaven. Spare us then, my Father. Let us enjoy our country, let us pursue the buffalo, the beaver, and other wild animals, and we will trade the skins with your people. It is too soon, my Great Father, to send your good men among us."

It is impossible not to admire this eloquent remonstrance, which, however, had no effect; for although the 'good men' were not sent on their mission of civilization, other whites soon made their appearance with a train of woes for the poor Indians at their heels. The billows of civilization have indeed rolled over many tribes, whelming them for ever from our view; but it was written, and with prophetic

inspiration, the Osages declared, that "wherever the white man sets down his foot he never takes it up again. It grows fast and spreads wide."

We cannot, of course, as lovers of civilization and human advancement, regret that the children of England should take the place of the red savages, for after all such they really are; but we wish the violent and, in many instances, barbarous systems of extermination had not been resorted to. Dr. Schoolcraft is, as might be expected, silent on these points, but we believe it to be not the less true, that upwards of thirty-six millions of dollars have been expended in the attempt to drive the Seminoles from their hunting-grounds. What quantity of Indian blood has been shed by this money is involved in mystery. But the red man has more terrible enemies to contend with than the gun or sword. The infectious disorders introduced by the Europeans have proved infinitely more destructive and merciless than our war engines. By the small-pox alone it has been computed that half the Indian population of North America has been swept away. The tribes regard it with horror. Their physicians have no remedy for it, and old and young alike blindly submit to its ravages. The disease swept through the Missouri valley in 1837:—

"Granting," says our author, "everything that can be asked on the score of excitement and exaggeration, not less than 10,000 persons fell before this destroying malady in a few weeks. Language, however forcible, can convey but a faint idea of the scene of desolation. In whatever direction you turned, nothing but sad wrecks of mortality met the eye; lodges standing on every hill, but not a streak of smoke rising from them. Not a sound to break the awful stillness save the ominous croak of ravens, and the mournful howl of wolves fattening on the human carcasses that laid strewed around. The prairie became a grave-yard; its wild flowers bloomed over the sepulchres of Indians. The women and children wandered in groups howling over the dead. The proud, warlike, and noble-looking Black-feet were exterminated. Many of the handsome Arickarees who had recovered, seeing the disfiguration of their features, committed suicide; some by throwing themselves from rocks, others by stabbing and shooting."

Terrible as is all this, it must yield in its fatal results to the effects of another importation by which we have destroyed the red man—we allude to the introduction of spirits, which, according to Dr. Schoolcraft, has killed a greater number of Indians than small-pox. In our own country we are early taught to abominate drunkenness. The poor Indian has had no such lesson; on the contrary, the fur-traders tell him that the fire-water will increase his valour and add to his strength. He, accordingly, with his innate respect and veneration for the white man, raises the cup to his lips, and from that moment becomes, almost without metaphor, 'a fallen man'; for such is his passion for the intoxicating liquor, that he will do anything and yield all his possessions to obtain it.

We must refer our readers to Dr. Schoolcraft's most interesting work for many particulars respecting the past and present manners and customs of the Indian tribes, which our space will not permit us to notice. We are tempted, however, to allude to the recently discovered evidence of ancient mining operations in California, which, from the occurrence of the remains of an altar, indicates in Dr. Schoolcraft's opinion the period of

Indian worship. The shaft discovered is two hundred and ten feet deep. It was explored, and the bones of a human skeleton and other evidence of ancient labour were found. Dr. Schoolcraft gives an elaborate series of statistical tables illustrative of the present native population. He is inclined to think that the numbers of the early aborigines have been over-estimated, and considers it doubtful whether an area of less than fifty thousand acres, in the forest state, is more than sufficient to sustain by the chase a single hunter. But the population has undoubtedly decreased in a melancholy manner during the past thirty years. In Oregon alone, the native tribes were stated in 1806 to amount to nearly 100,000, whereas they are now estimated at only 22,033. The grand total of all the tribes, according to the government census returns, is 388,229, besides which it is estimated that there may be from 25,000 to 35,000 Indians within the area of the unexplored territories of the United States.

History of Physical Astronomy, from the Earliest Ages to the Middle of the Nineteenth Century, &c. By Robert Grant, F.R.A.S. Baldwin.

A MORE instructive study than that of the history of astronomy it is difficult to conceive. Each advance made in our discoveries in planetary and stellar space appears to mark a new development of the human mind. First, we find men determining with difficulty the question of the form of the earth. Was this planet a great plain hung by chains in space, or a sphere around which the sun and all the other orbs revolved? Secondly, we have the priest-philosophers disputing of the relative motions of the sun and earth. Even to the time of Galileo this remained a vexed question, notwithstanding the acuteness of Ptolemy, and the clear-sightedness of Copernicus. Advance upon advance is made, and we gradually arrive at the most correct knowledge of the motion of our earth, and the planets to which by the band of gravitation she is chained around the solar centre, and of the revolutions of the sun itself; and beyond this we now learn that the entire solar system moves as a united whole around some other mighty centre hidden far deep in the immensity of space. Other points of equal interest, as marking man's progress, might be freely quoted; but as another example let us take but Tycho Brahé, who carefully catalogued the stars, and discovered the motions of the moon, and see the great step made by Kepler, whose famous laws of the planetary motions are known to every reader. The third law of this system, the study of which occupied this eminent man so long—the third law—that the squares of the periodic times are proportional to the cubes of the mean distances from the sun, appeared to lift him above humanity. In his rhapsodic exclamations of delight there is an outbursting of a divine mind through the clay temple in which it was confined. How strangely beautiful is that example of an enthusiasm which is rarely found on earth now-a-days, if ever:—

"What I prophesied twenty-two years ago, as soon as I discovered the five solids among the heavenly orbits,—what I firmly believed long before I had seen Ptolemy's harmonics,—what I had promised my friends in the title of this book, which I named before I was sure of my discovery,—what sixteen years ago I urged as a thing to be sought,—that for which I joined Tycho Brahé, for which I

settled in Prague,—for which I have devoted the best part of my life to astronomical contemplations, at length I have brought to light, and have recognised its truth beyond my most sanguine expectations. * * * It is now eighteen months since I got the first glimpse of light—three months since the dawn; very few days since the unveiled sun, most admirable to gaze on, burst out upon me. Nothing holds me; I will indulge in my sacred fury; I will triumph over mankind by the honest confession that I have stolen the golden vases of the Egyptians to build up a tabernacle for my God far away from the land of Egypt. If you forgive me, I rejoice; if you are angry, I can bear it. The die is cast, the book is written, to be read either now or by posterity, I care not which—it may well wait a century for a reader, as God has waited six thousand years for an interpreter of his works."

How vast again was the step made by our own Newton; and how grand the result, derived directly from his law, as evidenced in the predication, and the subsequent discovery, of the planet Neptune revolving on the very outbounds of our enormous system.

In tracing the inductive steps of things like these, Mr. Grant evidently takes much pleasure, and to such he has devoted the admirable book before us. This 'History of Physical Astronomy' is remarkable for its correctness and completeness, and we recommend it to every one desiring to know something of the arcana of space. As a review of the labours of astronomers, it discusses with precision the value of each theoretical view as it was advanced, and with much logical clearness it leads the reader through the mazes of astronomical discovery. Mr. Grant's style is simple and concise. We have been pleased with the following passages descriptive of the progress of the elder Herschel:—

"At length the discoveries of Herschel introduced a new era in the history of celestial physics. This highly-gifted individual, while occupying the humble situation of organist of the Octagon Chapel, Bath, to which he was appointed in the year 1766, was in the habit of devoting his leisure hours to the study of mathematics, and various branches of physical science, more especially optics and astronomy. Happening, on one occasion, to obtain the temporary use of a two-feet Gregorian reflector, he was so transported with the celestial wonders which it revealed to him, that he conceived a passionate desire to procure a similar instrument for himself, and he instructed a friend in London to purchase one for him. The price demanded by the optician proving too great for his slender means, he resolved, with the true instinct of genius, to rely upon his own personal resources for attaining the object of his wish; and after a course of persevering efforts, he at length, in the year 1774, enjoyed the satisfaction of surveying the heavens with a five-feet Newtonian reflector, which he constructed with his own hands. This was speedily followed by other reflectors of seven-feet, ten-feet, and even twenty-feet focal length, all of which were exquisite specimens of artistic skill.

"Armed with such powerful instruments, Herschel now proceeded to explore the heavens with all the enthusiasm which genius, stimulated by success, is capable of inspiring. He soon convinced astronomers that he was no ordinary amateur, who had betaken himself to the observation of celestial phenomena, by the high magnifying powers which he employed, amounting to 2000, 3000, and even in some instances to 6500. These numbers far surpassed the magnifying powers hitherto employed in telescopic observations. In 1781 his perseverance was rewarded by the discovery of the planet Uranus. Soon afterwards, George III. having bestowed upon him a liberal pension, he abandoned his original vocation, and henceforth devoted himself exclusively to astronomical pursuits. Having removed from Bath, he established himself first at Datchet, in the neighbourhood of

Windsor, and subsequently at Slough, where he continued during the remainder of his life to prosecute a career of astronomical discovery, which has few parallels in any age or country. The telescopes which Herschel employed in the early part of his astronomical observations, were all of the Newtonian construction. In 1786, however, he laid aside the small mirror, and adopted the form of construction which he distinguished by the appellation of *the front view*. By giving a slight inclination to the speculum, so as to throw the image a little to one side of the tube, it was possible to view the latter directly with an eye-glass. By this contrivance the light usually absorbed by the small mirror was saved, and the illumination of the image increased in a corresponding degree. In such a telescope it is obvious that the observer looks at the image with his back turned towards the object. Herschel applied this form of construction to all the instruments which he subsequently employed in his astronomical observations. His discovery of two satellites around Uranus was a result which speedily followed its adoption. It is right to mention that a similar form of construction had been already proposed by Lemaire, a Frenchman, as early as the year 1732.

"In 1789 Herschel surpassed all his former efforts as a practical optician, by the completion of a telescope of forty-feet focal length and four-feet aperture. This gigantic instrument was no sooner turned towards the heavens than it revealed to him the existence of two satellites around Saturn which had hitherto escaped the scrutinies of astronomers. It is impossible, within a moderate compass, to give even a simple enumeration of the multitude of brilliant discoveries in celestial physics which rewarded the labours of this great astronomer. It may be remarked, however, that admirable as were the immediate results of his telescopic observations, they would have failed to secure to him the exalted place which is now universally assigned to him in the history of astronomical discovery, if he had not at the same time been endowed with a mind of rare originality and power, combined with a strong turn for speculation."

—With this example of Mr. Grant's 'History,' which we may add is a closely-printed volume of 600 pages, we commend it to the attention of our readers.

NOTICES.

Poems. By the Hon. Julian Fane. Pickering.

VERY young either in years or in literature must the author of these poems be, and therefore we will deal with him more tenderly than otherwise we might be tempted to do. Poorer poetry, by the page together, we have rarely read, but at the same time there are passages of no common merit, which satisfy us that the writer has a true spirit of song within him. A more disciplined taste is his first great requirement, without which he must fail of high success. This is an element of poetic power within reach of cultivation, for in this respect *poeta fit, non nascitur*. But we confess we have always great doubts of the educability of young poets who love to write in irregular metres, and to take mottoes from Wordsworth or Coleridge. We advise Mr. Fane, as we have advised other aspirants after fame, to betake himself to the study of some of our old-fashioned English classics—Cowper and Goldsmith will do—not with any view of imitation, but solely for the education of his taste. Byron always acknowledged how much he owed to his early admiration of Pope. Young genius of the present day affects to despise the monotonous march and unvarying jingle of those old heroic couplets, but few of our modern poets succeed in pleasing men of sober judgment and refined taste by their more irregular utterances. To Mr. Fane we throw out these hints, but more for the sake of other living poets who try to amaze the world by their flights of genius.

We now with pleasure give one or two favourable specimens of Mr. Fane's poems. Here are two

stanzas from an ode addressed to a philosophic friend:—

"The year is up, and full of mirth,
The laughing plains are decked with green,
Spring walks upon the happy earth,
The vernal breezes blow serene;
The birds pour song from every tree,
Beneath them hums the murmuring bee,
The air is rife with merriest sound;
All hearts are light—the hour is sweet,
Glad faces in the sunshine meet,
Both young and old leave their retreat,
But thou with Solitude art found!

"All in thy solitary hours
What consolation dost thou find?
Large comfort from those heavenly Powers
That brood about the lofty mind;
The spirits of the Great and Good
Attend upon thy solitude,
With Wisdom's philosophic scroll;
And from the bright immortal page
Of bard inspired, and reverend sage,
(The Wise and Just of every age)
Is fed the fountain of thy soul."

There is a touch of clever humour too in some of the poetry, as in these opening verses of a drinking-song:—

"The wild wind whistles, sleet and rain,
Lashed downwards in a hurricane
Beat loud the clattering, pattered pane,
But fair's the weather
To us, well housed, here met to drain
The bowl together!

"Come, John, my lackadaisic cousin,
Whom now some silly slut doth cozen,
Whimper not woe-begone because in
Love, nor fiercely sigh;
But drink—and hope to love a dozen
Or e'er you die!"

Some of the faults of the poetry must be the result of hasty carelessness, as no one with the least ear for music could have allowed such lines to pass as these:—

"But he who rebel to thy laws which bind
Each soul projected on her orbic way,
Who tampers with the immortal mind
To warp her from the course defined,
Wherein thy hands her musical motions sway,
Shall hear in secret," &c.

Perhaps some idea may be formed of the author's mind from what he calls—

"THE POET'S PETITION."

"Kind Public! read me twice or thrice,
And gently treat a timid muse:
Stern Critics! read me once or twice,
Nor let me miss my wretched dues!
Fair Phœbe, read me fifty times!
Peruse and re-peruse my rhymes:
Thy blame or praise I will repay
With interest,—such as kisses may!
But Lizzy! lest thy frown should fall
Upon me, read me not at all!
All else beside may hiss and jeer,
But blame from thee I dare not hear!"

It depends, of course, very much on what sort of mind belongs to Mr. Fane's Calliope, or Lizzy, as he calls her in vernacular. If she is a girl of much sense or taste, he had better wait till he has another volume of poetry with fewer faults to present to her. Fair Phœbe, if not gifted with great intellect, will doubtless read and admire all his rhymes.

Oremus: Short Prayers in Verse for Sundays and Holidays, suggested by the Services of the Church of England. Rivingtons.

FROM any attempt to display the highest characteristic of poetry, originality of invention, the author of this work is precluded by the nature of the subject. The Collects of the Liturgy are turned into metrical paraphrases with the view of furnishing to devout members of the Church of England a manual of prayer, which may more readily fix in their memory the spirit of her supplications. That this could ever be done more effectually by means of verse than the prose in which these noble pieces are written, we much question. But there is no doubt that devotional feeling as well as intelligent thought may be increased by the mere variety of mode in which the same ideas are expressed. The chief art here is to keep as close as the metre will allow to the simple and grand beauty of the originals. This has been done generally with success. In some parts the paraphrase is rather too diffuse, from the necessities of the varied rhythms adopted, but in such as the fol-

lowing there is closeness of rendering without sacrifice of poetic taste:—

"FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY.
 "To seek Thy gracious aid
 Low on our knees we fall;
 O save the world that Thou hast made,
 And hear us when we call!
 "Teach us to read aright
 The lessons of Thy love,
 And send, to guide our feeble sight,
 Thy Spirit from above.
 "O, while our hearts believe
 According to Thy will,
 Help us our duties to perceive,
 And patiently fulfil."
 "FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER.
 "Everlasting Lord! from whom
 All good things come,
 Teach us, Thy humble servants, here
 On earth to fear
 Thy great and glorious Majesty,
 And evermore to think of Thee!
 "Let Thy free Spirit still incline
 Our wills to Thine;
 And for our Saviour's sake, Thy one
 Co-equal Son,
 Guide Thou our footsteps day by day,
 And keep us in Thy perfect way!"

As a specimen of the style of looser paraphrase we give the collect for—

"ST. MATTHEW'S DAY.
 "O Thou, whose earnest voice
 Awaken'd Matthew's heart
 To know Thee, and rejoice
 From earthly gains to part,
 Content that he
 Might follow Thee:
 "Give us Thy heavenly grace,
 That we may learn to hate
 The world, whose smiling face
 Even the regenerate
 Would fain allure
 With thoughts impure.
 "For he withstood its wiles;
 And we, by faith, may stand
 Firm, when false Mammon smiles,
 Ready at Thy command
 From earth to flee,
 To follow Thee!"

Whatever may be thought of the literary merit of the book, its pious purpose and its devotional spirit are worthy of hearty commendation. The author is a Fellow of Magdalene, at Oxford, and the book is dedicated to the venerable Dr. Routh, who has now been above sixty years President of that College.

Notes upon Russia; being a translation of the earliest account of that country. By the Baron Sigismund von Herberstein. Edited by R. M. Major, of the British Museum. Vol. II. Printed for the Hakluyt Society.

On the appearance of the first volume of this work, we gave some account of so curious an addition to the valuable library of the Hakluyt Society. The Baron Sigismund von Herberstein was ambassador from the court of Germany to the Grand Prince Vasily Ivanovich, in the years 1517 and 1526. He published the result of his observations under the title of '*Rerum Muscovitarum Commentarii*,' being the first detailed account of the country presented to Western Europe. In the introduction to the first volume, Mr. Major collected much information on the earlier travellers in Russia, and the works descriptive of the country. Some additional facts have since been communicated by the Prince Alexis Lobanoff Rostovski, and are given in a prefatory notice. The present volume opens with an account of Moscow, the number of houses in which was said, at the beginning of the sixteenth century, to be upwards of forty thousand. Of the various districts and towns visited by the author, accounts are given, with remarks on the customs, laws, and religion of the people. The latter part of the volume contains a curious treatise "of the north-east frosty seas, and the kingdoms lying that way," &c., gathered in part and done into English by Richard Eden in 1555, with a map of the date 1549 prefixed.

Revue sur l'Afrique Centrale. By Francis de Castelnau. Paris: Bertrand.
 This work contains a good deal of very interesting and very curious information on Central Africa. It is, however, chiefly valuable for the extraordinary

and scarcely credible details which it gives respecting a race of men and women *with tails*, who are represented to exist there. Of this singular people some account, taken from a communication to the Academy of Sciences by M. de Castelnau, was given in a Paris letter in the '*Literary Gazette*' of the 29th November last. They are called the Niam-Niams, and their tails are about a foot in length. Our author does not pretend to have seen them, but he has obtained an account of them from some negroes of the Soudan, or Nigritia, whom he met at Bahia, and who could have no possible reason for deceiving him. An experienced traveller, employed by the French government in scientific expeditions to Central America and Central Africa, he is not, one would think, disposed to be over gullible. It seems to us, therefore, very desirable, that his book should reach all travellers in, or traders to, the central parts of Africa, in order that they may, if possible, ascertain, beyond all doubt, whether there be or be not a portion of the human race possessed of caudal appendages. If there should be, what a triumph for the late Lord Monboddo.

SUMMARY.

A *Letter on the present position of the Life Assurance Interests of Great Britain*, addressed to the Rt. Hon. Joseph Henley, M.P., President of the Board of Trade, by William Thomson, F.R.S.E., deals in an able manner with a subject of growing importance. Mr. Thomson's design is first to show the magnitude of the "Life Assurance Interests of Great Britain, as exemplified by the existing transactions of the Life Offices," and then to urge the necessity of more effectual checks, on the part of Government, on the constitution and management of these institutions. In Scotland there are at present fifteen offices, all of them based on sound and safe principles, their united incomes about £1,400,000, their realized funds between six and seven millions sterling, and the assurances in force estimated at 33 or 34 millions. In England there are about ten times the number of offices, the assurances being about 116 millions sterling. It appears, however, that a large number of these English offices are very unsafe, the Joint-Stock Companies Act of 1844 having given too great encouragement to their hasty formation. In 1845 and six following years, there were no fewer than 235 companies projected, 123 founded, and in the same years 67 ceased to exist. Mr. Thomson makes out a strong case for immediate and searching inquiry with a view to prevent the establishment and continuance of unsound institutions. His own suggestions, given at the close of the letter, will be received by those interested in the subject with the deference due to one of the Vice-Presidents of the Society of Actuaries, and one who has had much experience as manager of two of the most important life assurance institutions in the country.

In *Arnold's School Classics* there is a capital school edition of the *Œdipus at Colonus* of Sophocles, with notes by F. W. Schneidewin, translated into English by the Rev. Henry Brown, M.A., Chaplain to the Bishop of Chichester. With the introduction and notes of this edition, the intelligent study of the play is rendered easy and pleasant. A list of rarer words and expressions, and the metres of the lyrical parts, are appended.

A treatise on the *Law of International Copyright* between England and France, in literature, the drama, music, and the fine arts, by Peter Burke, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, contains an analysis and explanation of the existing state of the law, so far as it can be understood and rendered intelligible in a brief compass. The important international convention of last year is of course founded on the law of either nation on the subject. In England the laws relating to copyright are very numerous, and recent lawsuits prove that they are far from clear or satisfactory. Consolidation and amendment are required here as in all departments of the British Statute-book. An analysis and tabular view is given of all the statutes, both in England and France, in the various departments of copyright, lite-

rary, dramatic, musical, or artistic. The text is given of the Convention which was signed at Paris, November 3, 1851, and the ratifications exchanged, January 8, of the present year. In the Act, 15 and 16 Vict. c. 12, passed May 28, 1852, for enabling her Majesty in council to carry into effect the Convention with France, the latest enactments are contained. A copious and well-arranged index adds to the value of the volume. The whole work, which is in English and French, on opposite pages, will be of use to the literary men in both countries.

The *Lecture upon Cotton, as an element of Industry*, delivered by Thomas Bazley, Esq., president of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, at the Society of Arts, London, last winter, H. R. H. Prince Albert in the Chair, is now published, chiefly for private distribution; but a subject so important will engage the attention of many who are interested in the commercial prosperity of the country, or who seek information on this department of British trade and industry.

A Reading-book for the higher classes in schools or for home teaching,—*Studies from the English Poets*, by G. F. Graham, author of a useful work on the art of Composition,—differs from most books of the kind, in the selections being made from only a few of the best of the English classics. For instance, the Epic specimens are all from Milton, and the Dramatic all from Shakspeare; and the names of Pope, Cowper, Thomson, Goldsmith, indicate the sober and classic taste of the compiler. Many books of extracts seem to attempt to excel in the variety rather than the value of their contents, and however preferable for books of reading, are not to be compared as manuals of instruction with a work prepared on the principles of the present '*Studies from the English Poets*.'

Antiquaries and collectors of literary curiosities will be pleased with a series of reprints of old and rare *Tracts on British Topography, History, Dialects, &c.*, now publishing by subscription. The first number contains two Northumbrian tales, related by the late famous Thomas Bewick of Newcastle, and published from original manuscripts. A portrait of Bewick forms the frontispiece, and the initial letters are from blocks which were cut by Bewick for the Newcastle Chronicle. The second number contains a trial for witchcraft at York Assizes, in 1612; and subsequent numbers present a great variety of subjects, all of them curious, and some of them not devoid of literary and historical importance.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Aiton's (John) Land of the Messiah, 8vo, cloth, 15s.
 Analysis and Summary of New Testament History, 5s. 6d.
 ————— with Map, 6s. 6d.
 ————— Old Testament, Maps, 12s. 6d.
 Campbell's New Testament, foolscap 8vo, cloth, 3s. 6d.
 Fane's (The Hon. Julian) Poems, foolscap 8vo, 4s. 6d.
 Goyder's (Rev. G. D.) Spiritual Reflections, 32mo, 3s.
 Gray's Twin Pupils, or Education at Home, 12mo, 7s. 6d.
 Helen Talbot, by Miss Pennefather, 3 vols. p. 8vo, £1 11s. 6d.
 Knight's Companion Shakspeare, Vol. 1, 3s. 6d.
 Kennedy's (A.) Practical Cotton Spinner, 12mo, cloth, 3s.
 Latham's Ethnology of the British Islands, 12mo, 5s.
 Lawrence's (F.) Common Law Procedure Act, 1852, 3s.
 Miller's (J.) Practice of Surgery, 8vo, cloth, 16s.
 Scott's Waverley Novels, Vol. 5, 8vo, cloth, 9s.
 Traveller's Library, Pictures from St. Petersburg, 1s.
 Uncle Tom's Cabin, 8vo, cloth, illustrated, 7s. 6d.
 Ward's (R. A.) Treatise on Investments, 8vo, 10s. 6d.

DR. KARL GUTZKOW.

(From a Correspondent in Munich.)

AUTOBIOGRAPHY and memoirs are not prevalent in German literature, and but rarely an author has adopted that style of writing to give us particulars of his life or that of others. Goethe, to our recollection, was the first man who wrote his biography, but his '*Dichtung und Wahrheit*' is, what the title denotes, truth and fiction interwoven, such as at his time of life he was perhaps unable to sift. His example was followed in some way by Varnhagen-von Ense, who has published several volumes of his '*Denkwürdigkeiten*'—the German word for Memoirs, which, as foreign, he scorns to adopt. What more he has to say of his eventful life will appear after his death, when those contemporaries

who could be hurt by his communication will likewise no longer exist. In the same track as his two renowned predecessors we now see Dr. Karl Gutzkow, the greatest author Germany can boast at this moment. He has published the first volume of his autobiography, which comprises the years from 1811 to 1821, the boyhood of the author, which he passed at Berlin, his native town, the description of which he gives us with graphic definiteness and artistic skill. In the manner of dissolving views, we see every place and every building pass before our mind's eyes; the palace and the cottage follow each other; the hero and the artisan, and life in its various phases, we meet here. Perfect truth is the pervading tone of the book; nothing is added, nothing omitted; his origin, his parents, the little room where he saw the light of day, the humble condition in which he was born. Gutzkow is now a man of about forty, in the prime of his life; the recollection of the past is still vivid in his mind, and he sees the scene of his early youth with perfect distinctness. The style and the colouring are therefore all the man and the poet had to bestow on it, to make it valuable as a masterpiece of art of its kind, and valuable too as setting an example to other men of talent to induce them to tell us their tale of sorrow and of pleasure, and to teach us by their experience to suffer and endure as they probably have done. Though this is Gutzkow's first autobiography, it is not the first biography he has written. This singularly gifted man has distinguished himself in every branch of literature, and the poet, the critic, and the novel-writer have met with equal approbation from the public. The complete collection of his works, however, contains some biographical sketches, which belong to the best we ever met with, and amongst them is a life of Börne, which is as good a picture of the man as Thomas Carlyle could draw. He has written besides most valuable essays, contained in the ninth and tenth volumes of his works, and these excellent disquisitions on literature, art, politics, and education prove amply that Gutzkow the poet might as well be Gutzkow the statesman, and in a free country would certainly have risen to fill a place under government, where he might have been most useful to his country.

The following passages may give an idea of the style of the book before us, 'Gutzkow's Knabenjahre.' He introduces himself thus:—

"The child seizes confidently the hand of the reader. Come with me, it says; I will lead you. Where? It could answer, thirty or forty years back; but it says, I will lead you straight on to the beginning of eternity and of everything, which you must know if you will but listen to the soft beatings of your own heart. I will lead you back to the time of childhood.

"The scene of my tale, which is a truer one than any history can give, is a dark little chamber. You know the place where the Christmas tree is carried, when its lights are extinguished."

In this small room Gutzkow was born. His father held an office in the royal stables; his mother was a nice, kind-hearted woman, and the aspect of a family life in that sphere must be a very interesting picture to an English reader, particularly with regard to its religion, which formed the mainspring of all their actions. We will give a passage from that chapter:—

"A home education of that religious tendency very naturally offered only religious books by way of recreation. The Bible and the Prayer-book were my first reading, to satisfy my craving after knowledge. In the Bible was written, according to the habit of the lower classes, the 'chronik' of the house, the marriage-day of my parents, the birth of the children, and their godfathers and godmothers. The people feel in some respects like the nobility. They dislike to be lost amongst the many, and to be forgotten as if they never had existed. They keep an account of all their property, however small its compass may be. In this Bible everything had an attraction for me, even the red print of the title-page."

And again he says:—

"The Bible is to the people the whole of human life, from the fabulous time of childhood until the theosophical inquisitiveness into our future state. But the Bible, too, gives him the first idea of sin and passion. The Bible is the Paradise, but also the tree of knowledge and the tempting serpent. Before the boy becomes aware of the impulse of his sensual nature, the Bible has thrown temptation into his heart. When reading at school certain chapters are omitted; his curiosity is thus excited, and his companions point out to him those passages where the picture of depravity and lewdness is drawn with oriental colouring. Moments like these in our education we must regard as intended by nature to form a leaf in the book of our life. It is Christianity, with its whole historical development, that teaches us to stand, to go, to run, to think, to feel, to act, to do, and not to do. With this salubrious and again dangerous *tintura aurea* our whole blood is mingled. To part here would cause a revolution which might reach farther than the migration of nations has done.

"Out of the great family Prayer-book every Sunday afternoon a long sermon was distinctly read. Besides this the little boy had a favourite reading-book of his own. This was a single volume of sermons printed in a particular fashion. This book had a singular charm for the juvenile reader. It was well bound, and the inside of the covering bore a crest of the family of Steiner, from Winterthur, in Switzerland, on which two arms held up a stone. This book was edited by Hafeli, in Switzerland, 1782, and written by a clergyman of Lavater's school. It was called 'Sermons and Extracts from Sermons.' Excellent book! which raised the soul of the child as on angels' wings to heaven! Such power and loftiness of thought, with poetry and love interwoven!" B.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

WITH the view of directing attention to the forthcoming meeting of the British Association at Belfast, we give the following programme of the proceedings, so far as it has been possible to arrange them. The Board Room at the Ulster Railway Station has been opened as a Reception Room for supplying lists, prices of lodgings, lists of addresses of Members, &c., and on Wednesday the usual daily journal of the papers to be read at the Sections will be issued. The business of the Association will be commenced at one o'clock on the same day by the first meeting in Queen's College of the General Committee. It will comprise the reading and confirming of the report of the Council of the Committee, the General Treasurer's account, showing for what scientific purposes the funds of the Association have been applied during the past year, and the election of Sectional Officers. The first general meeting will be held in the evening in May Street Church, when Colonel Sabine will deliver his Address. The President, bearing in view the objects of the Association, and especially the physical sciences, to the cultivation of which he has devoted his life, will commence probably by reporting on the exertions that have been making during the past year for the establishment, under the auspices of the Government, of an observatory in the southern hemisphere for the examination of the southern nebulae. The investigations that are being made with the aid of Lord Rosse's telescope to demonstrate the physical features of the moon will doubtless be referred to, and a compliment will be due to the Armagh and other Irish observatories for the valuable contributions that have been made in the sister Isle to astronomical science. Professor Stokes' interesting discovery of the presence of a new celestial blue light must be noticed, as it is selected for the subject of a discourse on the evening of Friday. Terrestrial magnetism will doubtless occupy a large share of the President's attention, from the circumstance of his having so greatly distinguished himself in that science; and the barometrical observations that have been taken at St. Helena and Singapore for the investigation of a lunar tide in the atmosphere. Arctic searching expeditions and their results must of course have

some passing notice, and the recent scientific ascent of the Nassau balloon will naturally draw attention to the Observatory of Kew, in which great exertions are being made for the improvement and supply of instruments for the observation of terrestrial physics. Lastly, it will be interesting to the members to hear the result of the application lately made to Government for an expedition to observe the tidal waves on the coasts of Africa and South America; and to know how far the interests of science may be benefited by the labours of the Parliamentary Committee founded last year at the meeting at Ipswich. *Soirées* will be held on Thursday and Saturday evenings, in the Great Room of Messrs. Workman, of Bedford Street. Excursions are not to take place until after the conclusion of the meeting.

About a month has passed since Mr. Hind announced the discovery of a new planet, one of the group between Mars and Jupiter. By the Astronomer Royal it has since been named Melpomene. This week Mr. Hind announces another planet of the same group, first observed at 11.30 P.M., August 22, in the constellation Aquarius, appearing as a star of the ninth magnitude, having the same yellow tinge as the asteroids previously discovered. At 11h. 35m. 38s. Greenwich time, August 22, its right ascension was 22h. 22m. 29.7s., and its north polar distance $97^{\circ} 32' 14''$; the diurnal motion in right ascension is 53 sec. towards the west, and in north polar declination about $5'$ towards the south. This is the sixth planet Mr. Hind has discovered within five years. When the last of Mr. Hind's planets was named by the Astronomer Royal, surprise was expressed that none of the group should by name be associated with the discoverer. Hind, in literal Saxon, might not easily be turned into a word so euphonious as Victoria or Melpomene, but *Cerra* might be used, or some other adaptation of the name, after the quaint but expressive manner of the old astronomers. If some pagan goddess must be given as the companion name to Pallas, *Diana* (*Diane au cerf*) would supply no distant memorial to the learned of the name of the discoverer.

Is M. Le Verrier, of the Paris Institute, entitled to all the 'glory,' as the French call it, of having discovered the planet Neptune from calculations of the perturbations of the planet Uranus—or is he not? This vexed question, which gave rise to so much controversy a few years ago, has, we perceive, just been revived by one of the Paris newspapers, as a means of annoying M. Le Verrier, with whom it has got into some quarrel. For ourselves, we have always been strongly of opinion that though M. Le Verrier carried off the fame, and in virtue thereof got decorations from foreign governments, and place and pensions from his own, our countryman, Mr. Adams, is, to say the least, as much entitled as he to be considered the discoverer, inasmuch as his calculations were simultaneously made, though not immediately acted on. The Paris paper, however, goes a good deal farther. It says,—what we believe is pretty generally known,—that Lalande and Burckhardt, so far back as 1801, made a communication to the Academy of Sciences at Paris, that there was reason to suppose "that a planet was situated beyond Uranus;" and that this alone is sufficient to deprive M. Le Verrier of the honour of having formed the original conception. The newspaper asserts, in addition, that Burckhardt made considerable progress in calculations for ascertaining the precise position of the planet, and that his papers got into M. Le Verrier's hands. To this grave assertion M. Le Verrier has wisely not thought it worth while to return an answer.

On the 15th inst., died at Bad-Weilbach, on the Rhine, Dr. Herbert Mayo, F.R.S., formerly Senior Surgeon to the Middlesex Hospital, and Professor of Physiology at King's College. He was a man of much professional ability, and of varied accomplishments. His published works are numerous, and the earlier ones chiefly on practical subjects, and on physiology, which was the department of medical science most congenial to him, and pursued with greatest success. As a lecturer, first in private schools of medicine, and afterwards in King's Col-

lege, he was more popular with the students than he was with his colleagues and professional brethren. For some years past he had retired from this country, and on the banks of the Rhine, at Boppard, conducted a hydropathic establishment, the principles of which method of cure he had zealously embraced in England. The latest of his works, and those most interesting to the general reader, were 'Letters on the Truths contained in Popular Superstitions,' and 'On the Philosophy of Living.' In the former of these works he traces with much ingenuity the physiological causes of various illusions, admitting a real foundation for many of these popular beliefs. The other work contains precepts on diet, exercise, bathing, regimen, and other points of the philosophy of living, in language adapted for popular use.

We have to record the sudden death, on Thursday last, of the artist, Mr. J. W. Allen, at his house, Priory Cottage, Lower Mall, Hammersmith, at the age of 49. His premature removal from the pursuits of art, in which he took a very active share, will be felt no less in that wider circle, than amongst the bereaved family he has left, consisting of a widow and eight children. Mr. Allen held the important post of secretary and trustee to the Society of British Artists; and the activity of his labours is to be observed not only from his close connexion with that important body, but from the fact of his having contributed ten paintings to the Society's Exhibition this year, and one to the Gallery of the British Institution. These were landscapes, taken exclusively in Britain, and in many instances from Wales. His style was distinguishable for a remarkable paleness in the scale of colour, which sometimes approached to a degree of coldness when compared with the treatment of similar objects by other hands; but we may refer to the views called *Craig y Dynas, North Wales*, and *Llynw Cleodd, Montgomeryshire*, the latter the subject in the British Institution, as very favourable specimens of his particular manner. The Secretaryship to the British Artists is thus vacant, and an opening is made in the ranks of that Society's members.

The recent obituary of persons eminent in art contains also the name of Mr. Samuel James Arnold, aged 78, well known to the musical world for his taste as a composer of sacred pieces. In Germany, M. de Waechter died lately at the age of 90, the oldest painter in the Empire. He was a pupil of David, and one of the best historical painters of his school. He lived chiefly at Vienna. On his retirement to Stuttgart, Frederic I. gave him the appointment of Conservator of the Royal Cabinet of Engravings, and Professor of the Beaux Arts. Of the Royal Institution of Stuttgart he was also the senior member.

Count Pompeo Litta, the well-known Italian author, died on the 17th, at Milan, his native place, aged 72. His principal work is a 'History of celebrated Italian Families,' in which, in addition to much literary merit, a good deal of patriotic spirit is displayed. Deceased was at one time a soldier, and took part in some of the celebrated battles of Napoleon.

A suggestion was made some time since by the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, that some of the public bodies of the city should severally undertake to fill up with statues the vacant niches of the Scott monument. The 'old Herioters,' men educated at Heriot's Hospital, the Blue-coat School of Scotland, have by subscription obtained a statue of George Heriot, executed by Mr. Slater, and have applied for leave to occupy the first vacant niche. George Heriot, the founder of the noble hospital in Edinburgh, is the well-known character in the 'Fortunes of Nigel,' the goldsmith of James I.

The Senators of the University of Edinburgh have refused the degree of M.D. to a candidate, otherwise qualified, because he refused to take a pledge never to practise on homœopathic principles. Whatever may be thought of Homœopathy as a system, this paltry way of opposing it is unworthy of the medical faculty of the University of Glasgow and Gregory. The patrons of the University have been appealed to by petition to interfere.

Quackery is not put down, but rather gains notoriety, by violent opposition.

In the last sitting of the Academy of Sciences at Brussels, a quantity of strange looking grain was produced, and it was stated that it was a part of a considerable quantity which had fallen from the sky, instead of rain, a few nights before, in the Rhenish province of Prussia. Of the actual falling of a shower of grain there is no doubt,—several persons returning home at night felt it beat in their faces very roughly, and the roads were strewn with it in a circuit of several miles. But where did this grain come from? The natural supposition is that it had been carried some distance by the violence of the wind; but it is so different to any that is known in this part of the world, that one or two savans did not hesitate to express the opinion that it may have come from a star, accidentally knocked to pieces by some larger heavenly body!! *En attendant* the discovery of the real truth, the grain is to be sown.

Amongst the new publications at Paris is, we see, a translation of the tragedy of *Gregory Nazianzen*, on the passion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This Gregory was the only father of the ancient Christian church who was distinguished for poetical talents of the highest order. His poems in the original Greek are not so well known as they ought to be; and, if we mistake not, are scarcely known at all in translation. The tragedy now given to the French public is in three acts; the first represents the Saviour's sufferings,—the second his burial,—the third his glorious rising from the dead. The Virgin Mary figures in all three, and is made to bewail the woes of her blessed Son in the most affecting and eloquent language. She and the other characters are responded to by choruses, in the style of the ancient Greek drama.

Mr. Owen Jones and Mr. Digby Wyatt are at present on an artistic tour on the Continent, for the purpose of collecting illustrations of architecture and sculpture, of which arts there are to be a series of historical specimens in the Crystal Palace at Sydenham. Letters have been given to them, addressed by Lord Malmesbury to the different ambassadors on their route, to desire that every facility may be procured for them in the prosecution of their mission.

Napoleon Landais, a French lexicographer and grammarian of some note, died a few days ago.

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES.

ROYAL INSTITUTION. — *June 11th.* — Sir Charles Fellows, Vice-President, in the chair.—Professor Faraday 'On the Physical Lines of Magnetic Force.' On a former occasion, certain lines about a bar magnet were described and defined (being those which are depicted to the eye by the use of iron filings sprinkled in the neighbourhood of the magnet), and were recommended as expressing accurately the nature, condition, direction, and amount of the force in any given region either within or outside of the bar. At that time the lines were considered in the abstract. Without departing from or unsettling anything then said, the inquiry is now entered upon of the possible and probable *physical existence* of such lines. Those who wish to reconsider the different points belonging to these parts of magnetic science may refer to two papers in the first part of the 'Philosophical Transactions' for 1852 for data concerning the *representative* lines of force, and to a paper in the 'Philosophical Magazine,' 4th Series, 1852, vol. iii. p. 401, for the argument respecting the *physical* lines of force. Many powers act manifestly at a distance; their physical nature is incomprehensible to us; still we may learn much that is real and positive about them, and amongst other things something of the condition of the space between the body acting and that acted upon, or between the two mutually acting bodies. Such forces are presented to us by the phenomena of gravity, light, electricity, magnetism, &c. These when examined, will be found to present remarkable differences in relation to their respective lines of forces; and at the same time that they establish

the existence of real physical lines in some cases, will facilitate the consideration of the question as applied especially to magnetism. When two bodies, *a* *b*, gravitate towards each other, the line in which they act is a straight line, for such is the line which either would follow if free to move. The attractive force is not altered, either in *direction* or *amount*, if a third body is made to act by gravitation or otherwise upon either or both of the two first. A balanced cylinder of brass gravitates to the earth with a weight exactly the same, whether it is left like a pendulum freely to hang towards it, or whether it is drawn aside by other attractions or by tension, whatever the amount of the latter may be. A new gravitating force may be exerted upon *a*, but that does not in the least affect the amount of power which it exerts towards *b*. We have no evidence that *time* enters in any way into the exercise of this power, whatever the distance between the acting bodies, as that from the sun to the earth, or from star to star. We can hardly conceive of this force in one particle by itself; it is when two or more are present that we comprehend it: yet in gaining this idea we perceive no difference in the character of the power in the different particles; all of the same kind are *equal*, *mutual*, and *alike*. In the case of gravitation, no effect which sustains the idea of an independent or physical line of force is presented to us; and as far as we at present know, the line of gravitation is merely an ideal line representing the direction in which the power is exerted. Take the sun in relation to another force which it exerts upon the earth—namely, its illuminating or warming power. In this case rays (which are lines of force) pass across the intermediate space; but then we may affect these lines by different media applied to them in their course. We may alter their direction either by reflection or refraction; we may make them pursue curved or angular courses. We may cut them off at their origin, and then search for and find them before they have attained their object. They have a relation to *time*, and occupy eight minutes in coming from the sun to the earth: so that they may exist independently either of their source or their final home, and have in fact a clear distinct physical existence. They are in extreme contrast with the lines of gravitating power in this respect; as they are also in respect of their condition at their terminations. The two bodies terminating a line of gravitating force are alike in their actions in every respect, and so the line joining them has like relations in both directions. The two bodies at the terminals of a ray are utterly unlike in action; one is a source, the other a destroyer of the line; and the line itself has the relation of a stream flowing in one direction. In these two cases of gravity and radiation, the difference between an abstract and a physical line of force is immediately manifest. Turning to the case of Static Electricity, we find here attractions (and other actions) at a distance as in the former cases; but when we come to compare the attraction with that of gravity, very striking distinctions are presented, which immediately affect the question of a physical line of force. In the first place, when we examine the bodies bounding or terminating the lines of attraction, we find them, as before, mutually and equally concerned in the action; but they are not alike: on the contrary, though each is endued with a force which, speaking generally, is of the like nature, still they are in such contrast that their actions on a third body in a state like either of them are precisely the reverse of each other,—what the one attracts the other repels; and the force makes itself evident as one of those manifestations of power endued with a dual and antithetical condition. Now, with all such dual powers, attraction cannot occur unless the two conditions of force are present and in face of each other through the lines of force. Another essential limitation is, that these two conditions must be exactly equal in amount, not merely to produce the effects of attraction, but in every other case; for it is impossible so to arrange things that there shall be present or be evolved more electric power of the

one kind than of the other. Another limitation is, that they must be in physical relation to each other; and that, when a positive and a negative electrified surface are thus associated, we cannot cut off this relation except by transferring the forces of these surfaces to equal amounts of the contrary forces provided elsewhere. Another limitation is, that the power is definite in amount. If a ball *a* be charged with ten of positive electricity, it may be made to act with that amount of power on another ball *b* charged with ten of negative electricity; but if five of its power be taken up by a third ball *c* charged with negative electricity, then it can only act with five of power on ball *a*, and that ball must find or evolve five of positive power elsewhere: this is quite unlike what occurs with gravity—a power that presents us with nothing dual in its character. Finally, the electric force acts in curved lines. If a ball be electrified positively and insulated in the air, and a round metallic plate be placed about twelve or fifteen inches off, facing it and uninsulated, the latter will be found, by the necessity mentioned above, in a negative condition; but it is not negative only on the side facing the ball, but on the other or outer face also, as may be shown by a carrier applied there, or by a strip of gold or silver leaf hung against that outer face. Now the power affecting this face does not pass through the uninsulated plate, for the thinnest gold leaf is able to stop the inductive action, but round the edges of the face, and therefore acts in curved lines. All these points indicate the existence of physical lines of electric force:—the absolutely essential relation of positive and negative surfaces to each other, and their dependence on each other, contrasted with the known mobility of the forces, admit of no other conclusion. The action also in curved lines must depend upon a physical line of force. And there is a third important character of the force leading to the same result—namely, its affection by media having different specific inductive capacities. When we pass to Dynamic Electricity the evidence of physical lines of force is far more patent. A voltaic battery having its extremities connected by a conducting medium, has what has been expressively called a current of force running round the circuit, but this current is an axis of power having equal and contrary forces in opposite directions. It consists of lines of force which are compressed or expanded according to the transverse action of the conductor, which changes in direction with the form of the conductor, and can be taken out from any place by channels properly appointed for the purpose; and nobody doubts that they are physical lines of force. Finally, as regards a magnet, which is the object of the present discourse. A magnet presents a system of forces perfect in itself, and able, therefore, to exist by its own mutual relations. It has the dual and antithetic character belonging to both static and dynamic electricity; and this is made manifest by what are called its polarities—i. e., by the opposite powers of like kind found at and towards its extremities. These powers are found to be absolutely equal to each other; one cannot be changed in any degree as to amount without an equal change of the other; and this is true when the opposite polarities of a magnet are not related to each other, but to the polarities of other magnets. The polarities, or the *northness* and *southness* of a magnet, are not only related to each other, through or within the magnet itself, but they are also related externally to opposite polarities, (in the manner of static electric induction,) or they cannot exist; and this external relation involves and necessitates an exactly equal amount of the new opposite polarities to which those of the magnet are related. So that if the force of a magnet *a* is related to that of another magnet *b*, it cannot act on a third magnet *c* without being taken off from *b*, to an amount proportional to its action on *c*. The lines of magnetic force are shown by the moving wire to exist both within and outside of the magnet; also they are shown to be closed curves passing in one part of their course

through the magnet; and the amount of those within the magnet at its equator is exactly equal in force to the amount in any section including the whole of those on the outside. The lines of force outside a magnet can be affected in their direction by the use of various media placed in their course. A magnet can in no way be procured having only one magnetism, or even the smallest excess of northness or southness one over the other. When the polarities of a magnet are not related externally to the forces of other magnets, then they are related to each other: i. e., the northness and southness of an isolated magnet are externally dependant on and sustained by each other. Now all these facts, and many more, point to the existence of physical lines of force external to the magnets as well as within. They exist in curved as well as in straight lines; for if we conceive of an isolated straight bar magnet, or more especially of a round disc of steel magnetised regularly, so that its magnetic axis shall be in one diameter, it is evident that the polarities must be related to each other externally by curved lines of force; for no straight line can at the same time touch two points having northness and southness. Curved lines of force can, as I think, only consist with physical lines of force. The phenomena exhibited by the moving wire confirm the same conclusion. As the wire moves across the lines of force, a current of electricity passes or tends to pass through it, there being no such current before the wire is moved. The wire when quiescent has no such current, and when it moves it need not pass into places where the magnetic force is greater or less. It may travel in such a course that if a magnetic needle were carried through the same course it would be entirely unaffected magnetically, i. e., it would be a matter of absolute indifference to the needle whether it were moving or still. Matters may be so arranged that the wire when still shall have the same diamagnetic force as the medium surrounding the magnet, and so in no way cause disturbance of the lines of force passing through both; and yet when the wire moves, a current of electricity shall be generated in it. The mere fact of motion cannot have produced this current: there must have been a state or condition around the magnet and sustained by it, within the range of which the wire was placed; and this state shows the physical constitution of the lines of magnetic force. What this state is or upon what it depends cannot as yet be declared. It may depend upon the ether, as a ray of light does, and an association has already been shown between light and magnetism. It may depend upon a state of tension, or a state of vibration, or perhaps some other state analogous to the electric current, to which the magnetic forces are so intimately related. Whether it of necessity requires matter for its sustentation will depend upon what is understood by the term matter. If that is to be confined to ponderable or gravitating substances, then matter is not essential to the physical lines of magnetic force any more than to a ray of light or heat; but if in the assumption of an ether we admit it to be a species of matter, then the lines of force may depend upon some function of it. Experimentally mere space is magnetic; but then the idea of such mere space must include that of the ether, when one is talking on that belief; or if hereafter any other conception of the state or condition of space rise up, it must be admitted into the view of that, which just now in relation to experiment is called mere space. On the other hand it is, I think, an ascertained fact that ponderable matter is not essential to the existence of physical lines of magnetic force.

ASTRONOMICAL. — April 7th. — George Bishop, Esq., Treasurer, in the chair. A paper was read 'On determining the Longitude at Sea from Altitudes of the Moon,' by Lieut. E. D. Ashe, R.N. — "In the August of 1849 I was invalided at Valparaiso, with a fracture of the thigh-bone, and was ordered a passage to England in the *Pandora* surveying-vessel. During my leisure, my attention

was drawn to the subject of longitudes, by the circumstance of one of the chronometers (which had gone well for four years) changing its rate very considerably without any assignable cause: and knowing what implicit confidence is placed in a good chronometer, I felt that it was to be lamented that there was not some plan less laborious and of easier attainment than the lunar distance for checking chronometers; for, notwithstanding my experience of more than twenty years' sea time, I can only recollect one instance of the chronometers having been checked by the lunar distance, which may be, perhaps, accounted for by the many inconveniences attending the observation, and the large amount of practice necessary to ensure success." The data for the problem proposed by Lieut. Ashe, are, the sidereal time of the observation, the latitude of the place, and the observed altitude of the moon. Lieut. Ashe first computes the zenith distance of the moon on the supposition that the observer is on the meridian of Greenwich. As the Greenwich sidereal time is known, the arc of the equinoctial between the moon's node and the meridian may be computed from the 'Nautical Almanac,' and the angle which the moon's orbit makes with the equinoctial may be assumed to be equal to the moon's greatest declination. Hence the solution of a right-angled triangle will give the arc on the moon's orbit, from her node to the meridian, or arc *a*; the arc on the meridian between the orbit and the equinoctial, or arc *b*; and the angle included between these arcs, or γ . Again, if a perpendicular be let fall from the zenith upon the moon's orbit, the angle in this triangle opposite the perpendicular will be γ , and the hypotenuse is the latitude of the place when increased or diminished by arc *b*; hence the value of the perpendicular arc *d* is found, and also the distance of the foot of the perpendicular from the meridian *e*: the addition or subtraction of *e* to *a* gives the longitude of the foot of the perpendicular, reckoned on the moon's orbit from the node. Finally, having the values of the perpendicular on the orbit, and of the moon's zenith distance calculated for the meridian of Greenwich, the third side is computed, which, when applied to the last found arc gives the longitude of the moon on her orbit reckoned from the node, on the hypothesis that the observer is on the meridian of Greenwich at the sidereal time supposed. Lieut. Ashe then assumes that the change of meridian from Greenwich to the place of observation will not alter the relation of these circles to each other, and that the moon will merely occupy another situation in her orbit. As the zenith distance at the place of observation is supposed to be known, there are, in the right-angled triangle requiring solution, the perpendicular on the moon's orbit, and the observed distance of the moon from the zenith; and from these data the longitude of the moon on her orbit, reckoned from the node, is found for the time and meridian of the place. The difference of the two arcs thus found, divided by the moon's motion, will give the difference in longitude between Greenwich and the place of observation. Lieut. Ashe suggests a second mode of determining the longitude by an altitude of the moon, when compared with an altitude of the sun or a star. "For the sake of simplicity, take an example with a star. Let the altitude of a star near the prime vertical be taken, and compute its hour-angle. As soon after as may be convenient, take the altitude of the moon, and find her hour-angle; the elapsed sidereal time, and run of the ship (if necessary), being applied to the hour-angle of the star, the hour-angles of moon and star are known at the instant of last observation, and consequently the right ascension of the moon is known from the right ascension of the star. A simple proportion will show what is the Greenwich time corresponding to this right ascension of the moon. When the observations are made on the same side of the meridian, an error in latitude, or instrument, or that caused by bad horizon, or refraction, or personal equation, will not materially affect the 'difference' of the hour-angles, since the errors are common to both triangles ZPS and ZPM, and both are ang-

mented or diminished nearly alike; and therefore the 'difference' between erroneous hour-angles will be nearly equal to the difference between correct hour-angles."

FINE ARTS.

EXHIBITION OF THE ART UNION.

THE collection of paintings and drawings selected by the prize-holders amongst the Art-Union is now open; and the exhibition of this year, always well attended and easily accessible from the number of free tickets, shows no diminution of popularity. At the same time, the selection has been, on the whole, good, particularly in landscape, where the national taste is more pronounced and further advanced. The highest prize of 200*l.*, however, has been expended in a work by a foreign artist, G. Cornicelius, of Munich, and its merits are not so eminent as to prevent our wishing the sum had been bestowed upon more deserving English talent. The subject is *Our Saviour with the Woman of Samaria* (4), and will, perhaps, be remembered by some in the Royal Academy for its warm colour but formal arrangement, more resembling Leonardo than Titian, and the German expression of the principal figure. Its defects of weakness of conception and ill-managed light are rendered conspicuous by the aspiring features of its style; but whilst not faultless, it is yet not unpleasing, and may serve, without impropriety, for the altar-piece of a church, or for a large gallery. It has been selected by the Rev. A. W. Sibthorp. Mr. Tennant's *Father Thames, with distant View of Melton Church* (11) (*ante p. 372*), appears as a prize of 150*l.*, its clear and distinct style asserting immediate superiority. Mr. O'Neill's *The Foundling* (70) is another prize of the same value, and possesses many striking merits of character and execution. The scene from Crabbe's 'Parish Register,' which describes the meeting of the village conclave, the naming of the infant, his workhouse training, and his death as Sir Richard Monday, is here represented by a pencil not at all inferior to the pen of the writer in dramatic effect and powerful delineation; it is one of those works in which the genius of the artist has plainly taken delight, and the triumph of successful delineation is recorded in all its lines. The shrewd and benevolent justice, his knavish-looking clerk, and the subordinate figures, down to the nurse and the beadle, are admirably treated. Another picture of similar style in composition, Mr. J. G. Middleton's *The Village Letter-writer* (60), from the National Institution (*ante p. 550*), has been chosen for a 100*l.* prize; and the large sea-piece by Knell, from the Academy, for another. Amongst those of less aspiring dimensions, we are happy to notice Mr. W. H. Phillips's *Magdalen* (44), an original and high-class production, already noticed, from the Academy; Mr. Danby's *Lake Lemau, Switzerland* (98), Mr. Uwins's *Vesper Bell* (110); Mr. Jutsum's very clever view of *Ivy-bridge, Evening* (116), and two of Mr. Hurlstone's Spanish compositions, *The Flower Girl of Seville* (31), and *Saint John's Eve* (17). The faithful and artistic, though mannered studies of wood, mountain scenery, air, water, and foreground, which bear the names of Williams, Boddington, and Gilbert, meet, as they deserve, with much favour, especially the really grand view entitled *A quiet Valley, Autumn, North Wales* (61), by the second above mentioned, which is one of the best landscapes in the room. One of Mr. Hardy's irresistible interiors; a sea-piece by Wilson; Mr. Armfield's animals; and a Dutch scene by Mr. Montague, have all found places in the selection; and the landscapes of Messrs. Clint and G. Cole, Stark and Shayer, assert their popularity. The *Mountaineers* (49), and *Returning from Church* (62), of Mr. Frederick Underhill, have both been chosen from the National Institution, the undisputed merits of their clear and vigorous painting atoning in the eyes of some for their theatrical attitudes and forced colour. Amongst the water-colour drawings, Mr. Collingwood Smith's *Town and Castle of Dieppe* (124), several of Mr. Bennett's leafy scenes, a drawing by John Callow, another by Copley Fielding,

and two artistic performances by David Cox, jun., again grace the walls of the Exhibition.

The figures in statuary porcelain—*Solitude*, by Lawlor; *Innocence*, by Foley; *The Dancing Girl Reposing*, by Marshall; and Gibson's *Narcissus*—though now familiar to the eye of the public, are satisfactory in showing the taste that has guided the Society in their choice.

Amongst the engravings are the prints of the year, namely, *The Surrender of Calais*, in the course of engraving, by Robinson, from the picture by H. C. Selous, which will be ready for distribution about Christmas next; and *The Crucifixion*, after Stilton, by W. Finden.

The accomplished and talented authoress of *Child's Play*, whose designs are distinguished no less for grace and delicacy than for artistic facility and copious invention, has produced a large composition, descriptive of *The Burial Service* in the Protestant church, which has been etched on copper by G. Wenzel, an artist of Rome, and is now published by Messrs. Addey, of New Bond Street. The same qualities that distinguished the drawings in the work above mentioned, are repeated in this instance; and a feminine sympathy of feeling softens the asperities of what might else be severe in the solemn attitudes, aspects, and costumes of grief. The productions of this distinguished amateur have been compared to the outlines of Retzsch, to which they are not equal in the range of varied human emotion embraced in that great composer's works, but which they at least rival in the power of expressing the purest and most graceful sentiment in a few simple lines. The treatment of these groups is founded, however, on the German style, whilst their essential spirit, the refinement of the thought and the delicacy of expression, are original. The etching has been shaded in several tints by a process resembling aquarilla in appearance, and thus brings in light and shade to assist the effects which Retzsch produced by outline alone. The contrast to the mournful scene in front, produced by the children and wreaths of flowers behind, is an effect ever welcome, however frequent it be, in the conceptions of art. The drawing will have a large circle of admirers, and will appeal to many retiring but deep feelings in the breasts of the spectators.

From Italy we learn that the Princess of Canino has resolved on setting on foot fresh excavations in the country lying between the Tiber and the Garigliano, where already so many treasures of art and antiquity have been discovered. The direction of the works will be given to Monsieur Alessandro François, who has the reputation of being an eminent archaeologist.

The commission for purchasing pictures and other works of art at present exhibiting at Antwerp, for the Art Union Lottery, has been entrusted to the Barons Osy and Wappers; Messieurs J. Cuylets, H. Legrelle, E. Gechland, Ed. Tor Bruggen, and Th. Smeken, all members of the royal commission for the encouragement of the Fine Arts in Belgium. The drawing will take place from the 5th to the 15th of October.

Blanc's 'History of the Painters of All Nations.'

(Concluded from our last.)

THE death of Murillo, which was the consequence of a fall from the scaffold while he was painting in the church of the Capuchins, at Cadiz, took place at Seville, on the 3rd April, 1682. The various minor incidents of his tranquil life are related by the writer with the same lively interest, and amidst the comments on his principal pictures, which are generally neither very critical nor very closely descriptive, the following passage of original observation occurs, perhaps the most valuable of any:—"Contrast is the mainspring of Spanish art. Thus we have seen in our own days the French romantic school, based upon contrast, turn its first glance towards the land of Murillo and of Cervantes. From Hernani to Ruy Blas, it is Spain that has furnished the wardrobes of our literary

colourists with their rags and their doublets, the silken *basquine* of the Duchess, and the tattered mantle of Don Caesar. No one has more frequently or more happily made use of contrast than Murillo. We do not thereby mean those abrupt oppositions of light and shade, such as the terrible Ribera affected. Contrast with Murillo shone forth in the philosophy of the picture, by the unexpected approximation of its different qualities, and by the antithesis of thoughts or of character. That he might not come into collision at once with mind and vision, Murillo, contrary to the practice of Spagnoletto, placed the dualism in the action, and the unity in the *chiaro-oscuro*,—the contrast being addressed to the mind, and the harmony to the eye."

The second main object of the work before us has been to supply the description of the artist's life, with the accompanying illustration of engravings after his works; and this has been accomplished in the present instance by woodcuts of his portrait, and of seven of his most celebrated paintings—*The Virgin à la Ceinture*, *A Young Mendicant* (both in the Louvre), *The Conception of the Virgin* (the great painting so lately renowned for its extravagant price of 24,612*l.*), *The Fruit Girl*, *The Holy Family*, *Saint Diego d'Alcala* (another of Marshal Soult's appropriations), and the *Ecstasy of Saint Francis*. These woodcuts are all of French execution—sometimes in the bold black-and-white style of contrast which is characteristic of the country; at other times sketchy alike in outline and shading, intended, perhaps, to illustrate the successive *Prio*, or dark and firm, *Calido*, or warm, and *Vaporoso*, or misty and vaporous, styles of the painter. The engraving of the *Conception* is remarkably skilful in attempting the variety and picturesqueness of the groups of cherubs; and the last, *Saint Francis*, is a highly-finished piece of wood-cutting, lacking, however, the full completeness of English work, but enclosed in a framing of the boldest Louis Quatorze design, which is itself well-deserving of attention. Whatever be the merits of the illustrations, they at any rate succeed in representing both the composition and the arrangement of light and shade in the originals—two points in which reside some of their greatest merits. The notes by Mr. Wyatt that accompany M. Blanc's essay are valuable; whilst the appendix, containing a list of the artist's works, might evidently, and at first sight, be rendered far more full and complete; and this we think an omission of some importance; but in the subordinate merits of printing and paper, the work is beautifully executed. We sincerely wish the undertaking the fullest success, admiring the enterprise of its promoters, but at the same time hoping the importance and extent of its pretensions will be always kept in view by its authors, and adequately consulted throughout.

MUSIC.

THE season at HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, which closed on Saturday with Rossini's *Barbiere di Siviglia* and the new ballet of *Zélie*, has been marked by few notable events, and, on the whole, has been far from satisfactory. A succession of untoward circumstances, including the Wagner dispute, the non-appearance of Madame Sontag, the abrupt disappearance of several favourites, and at length the public announcement of financial distress, have given a sombre cast to the records of the season. Nevertheless, there have been various events worthy of more cheerful notice. Madame de la Grange, who made a successful *début* as *Lucia di Lammermoor*, on the 22nd of May, has since sustained the expectation formed at her first appearance. Her full soprano voice, the upper notes of which are remarkably clear, has been educated to a florid execution, producing brilliancy of effect, which has been surpassed by few singers. In her acting she is deficient in passion and force, but always full of taste and grace. Later in the season the new baritone, Signor de Bassini, first appeared as *Figaro* in the *Barbiere*, with Madame de la Grange as *Rosina*. De Bassini's *début* was also



one kind than of the other. Another limitation is, that they must be in physical relation to each other; and that, when a positive and a negative electrified surface are thus associated, we cannot cut off this relation except by transferring the forces of these surfaces to equal amounts of the contrary forces provided elsewhere. Another limitation is, that the power is definite in amount. If a ball *a* be charged with ten of positive electricity, it may be made to act with that amount of power on another ball *b* charged with ten of negative electricity; but if five of its power be taken up by a third ball *c* charged with negative electricity, then it can only act with five of power on ball *a*, and that ball must find or evolve five of positive power elsewhere: this is quite unlike what occurs with gravity—a power that presents us with nothing dual in its character. Finally, the electric force acts in curved lines. If a ball be electrified positively and insulated in the air, and a round metallic plate be placed about twelve or fifteen inches off, facing it and uninsulated, the latter will be found, by the necessity mentioned above, in a negative condition; but it is not negative only on the side facing the ball, but on the other or outer face also, as may be shown by a carrier applied there, or by a strip of gold or silver leaf hung against that outer face. Now the power affecting this face does not pass through the uninsulated plate, for the thinnest gold leaf is able to stop the inductive action, but round the edges of the face, and therefore acts in curved lines. All these points indicate the existence of physical lines of electric force:—the absolutely essential relation of positive and negative surfaces to each other, and their dependence on each other, contrasted with the known mobility of the forces, admit of no other conclusion. The action also in curved lines must depend upon a physical line of force. And there is a third important character of the force leading to the same result—namely, its affection by media having different specific inductive capacities. When we pass to Dynamic Electricity the evidence of physical lines of force is far more patent. A voltaic battery having its extremities connected by a conducting medium, has what has been expressively called a current of force running round the circuit, but this current is an axis of power having equal and contrary forces in opposite directions. It consists of lines of force which are compressed or expanded according to the transverse action of the conductor, which changes in direction with the form of the conductor, which are found in every part of the conductor, and can be taken out from any place by channels properly appointed for the purpose; and nobody doubts that they are physical lines of force. Finally, as regards a magnet, which is the object of the present discourse. A magnet presents a system of forces perfect in itself, and able, therefore, to exist by its own mutual relations. It has the dual and antithetic character belonging to both static and dynamic electricity; and this is made manifest by what are called its polarities—*i. e.*, by the opposite powers of like kind found at and towards its extremities. These powers are found to be absolutely equal to each other; one cannot be changed in any degree as to amount without an equal change of the other; and this is true when the opposite polarities of a magnet are not related to each other, but to the polarities of other magnets. The polarities, or the *northness* and *southness* of a magnet, are not only related to each other, through or within the magnet itself, but they are also related externally to opposite polarities, (in the manner of static electric induction,) or they cannot exist; and this external relation involves and necessitates an exactly equal amount of the new opposite polarities to which those of the magnet are related. So that if the force of a magnet *a* is related to that of another magnet *b*, it cannot act on a third magnet *c* without being taken off from *b*, to an amount proportional to its action on *c*. The lines of magnetic force are shown by the moving wire to exist both within and outside of the magnet; also they are shown to be closed curves passing in one part of their course

through the magnet; and the amount of those within the magnet at its equator is exactly equal in force to the amount in any section including the whole of those on the outside. The lines of force outside a magnet can be affected in their direction by the use of various media placed in their course. A magnet can in no way be procured having only one magnetism, or even the smallest excess of northness or southness one over the other. When the polarities of a magnet are not related externally to the forces of other magnets, then they are related to each other: *i. e.*, the northness and southness of an isolated magnet are externally dependant on and sustained by each other. Now all these facts, and many more, point to the existence of physical lines of force external to the magnets as well as within. They exist in curved as well as in straight lines; for if we conceive of an isolated straight bar magnet, or more especially of a round disc of steel magnetised regularly, so that its magnetic axis shall be in one diameter, it is evident that the polarities must be related to each other externally by curved lines of force; for no straight line can at the same time touch two points having northness and southness. Curved lines of force can, as I think, only consist with physical lines of force. The phenomena exhibited by the moving wire confirm the same conclusion. As the wire moves across the lines of force, a current of electricity passes or tends to pass through it, there being no such current before the wire is moved. The wire when quiescent has no such current, and when it moves it need not pass into places where the magnetic force is greater or less. It may travel in such a course that if a magnetic needle were carried through the same course it would be entirely unaffected magnetically, *i. e.*, it would be a matter of absolute indifference to the needle whether it were moving or still. Matters may be so arranged that the wire when still shall have the same diamagnetic force as the medium surrounding the magnet, and so in no way cause disturbance of the lines of force passing through both; and yet when the wire moves, a current of electricity shall be generated in it. The mere fact of motion cannot have produced this current: there must have been a state or condition around the magnet and sustained by it, within the range of which the wire was placed; and this state shows the physical constitution of the lines of magnetic force. What this state is or upon what it depends cannot as yet be declared. It may depend upon the ether, as a ray of light does, and an association has already been shown between light and magnetism. It may depend upon a state of tension, or a state of vibration, or perhaps some other state analogous to the electric current, to which the magnetic forces are so intimately related. Whether it of necessity requires matter for its sustentation will depend upon what is understood by the term matter. If that is to be confined to ponderable or gravitating substances, then matter is not essential to the physical lines of magnetic force any more than to a ray of light or heat; but if in the assumption of an ether we admit it to be a species of matter, then the lines of force may depend upon some function of it. Experimentally mere space is magnetic; but then the idea of such mere space must include that of the ether, when one is talking on that belief; or if hereafter any other conception of the state or condition of space rise up, it must be admitted into the view of that, which just now in relation to experiment is called mere space. On the other hand it is, I think, an ascertained fact that ponderable matter is not essential to the existence of physical lines of magnetic force.

ASTRONOMICAL. — April 7th. — George Bishop, Esq., Treasurer, in the chair. A paper was read 'On determining the Longitude at Sea from Altitudes of the Moon,' by Lieut. E. D. Ashe, R.N. — "In the August of 1849 I was invalided at Valparaiso, with a fracture of the thigh-bone, and was ordered a passage to England in the *Pandora* surveying-vessel. During my leisure, my attention

was drawn to the subject of longitudes, by the circumstance of one of the chronometers (which had gone well for four years) changing its rate very considerably without any assignable cause; and knowing what implicit confidence is placed in a good chronometer, I felt that it was to be lamented that there was not some plan less laborious and of easier attainment than the lunar distance for checking chronometers; for, notwithstanding my experience of more than twenty years' sea time, I can only recollect one instance of the chronometers having been checked by the lunar distance, which may be, perhaps, accounted for by the many inconveniences attending the observation, and the large amount of practice necessary to ensure success." The data for the problem proposed by Lieut. Ashe, are, the sidereal time of the observation, the latitude of the place, and the observed altitude of the moon. Lieut. Ashe first computes the zenith distance of the moon on the supposition that the observer is on the meridian of Greenwich. As the Greenwich sidereal time is known, the arc of the equinoctial between the moon's node and the meridian may be computed from the 'Nautical Almanac,' and the angle which the moon's orbit makes with the equinoctial may be assumed to be equal to the moon's greatest declination. Hence the solution of a right-angled triangle will give the arc on the moon's orbit, from her node to the meridian, or arc *a*; the arc on the meridian between the orbit and the equinoctial, or arc *b*; and the angle included between these arcs, or γ . Again, if a perpendicular be let fall from the zenith upon the moon's orbit, the angle in this triangle opposite the perpendicular will be γ , and the hypotenuse is the latitude of the place when increased or diminished by arc *b*; hence the value of the perpendicular arc *d* is found, and also the distance of the foot of the perpendicular from the meridian *e*: the addition or subtraction of *e* to *a* gives the longitude of the foot of the perpendicular, reckoned on the moon's orbit from the node. Finally, having the values of the perpendicular on the orbit, and of the moon's zenith distance calculated for the meridian of Greenwich, the third side is computed, which, when applied to the last found arc gives the longitude of the moon on her orbit reckoned from the node, on the hypothesis that the observer is on the meridian of Greenwich at the sidereal time supposed. Lieut. Ashe then assumes that the change of meridian from Greenwich to the place of observation will not alter the relation of these circles to each other, and that the moon will merely occupy another situation in her orbit. As the zenith distance at the place of observation is supposed to be known, there are, in the right-angled triangle requiring solution, the perpendicular on the moon's orbit, and the observed distance of the moon from the zenith; and from these data the longitude of the moon on her orbit, reckoned from the node, is found for the time and meridian of the place. The difference of the two arcs thus found, divided by the moon's motion, will give the difference in longitude between Greenwich and the place of observation. Lieut. Ashe suggests a second mode of determining the longitude by an altitude of the moon, when compared with an altitude of the sun or a star. "For the sake of simplicity, take an example with a star. Let the altitude of a star near the prime vertical be taken, and compute its hour-angle. As soon after as may be convenient, take the altitude of the moon, and find her hour-angle; the elapsed sidereal time, and run of the ship (if necessary), being applied to the hour-angle of the star, the hour-angles of moon and star are known at the instant of last observation, and consequently the right ascension of the moon is known from the right ascension of the star. A simple proportion will show what is the Greenwich time corresponding to this right ascension of the moon. When the observations are made on the same side of the meridian, an error in latitude, or instrument, or that caused by bad horizon, or refraction, or personal equation, will not materially affect the 'difference' of the hour-angles, since the errors are common to both triangles ZPS and ZPM, and both are aug-

mented or diminished nearly alike; and therefore the 'difference' between erroneous hour-angles will be nearly equal to the difference between correct hour-angles."

FINE ARTS.

EXHIBITION OF THE ART UNION.

THE collection of paintings and drawings selected by the prize-holders amongst the Art-Union is now open; and the exhibition of this year, always well attended and easily accessible from the number of free tickets, shows no diminution of popularity. At the same time, the selection has been, on the whole, good, particularly in landscape, where the national taste is more pronounced and further advanced. The highest prize of 200*l.*, however, has been expended in a work by a foreign artist, G. Cornicelius, of Munich, and its merits are not so eminent as to prevent our wishing the sum had been bestowed upon more deserving English talent. The subject is *Our Saviour with the Woman of Samaria* (4), and will, perhaps, be remembered by some in the Royal Academy for its warm colour but formal arrangement, more resembling Leonardo than Titian, and the German expression of the principal figure. Its defects of weakness of conception and ill-managed light are rendered conspicuous by the aspiring features of its style; but whilst not faultless, it is yet not unpleasing, and may serve, without impropriety, for the altar-piece of a church, or for a large gallery. It has been selected by the Rev. A. W. Sibthorp. Mr. Tennant's *Father Thames, with distant View of Melton Church* (11) (*ante p.* 372), appears as a prize of 150*l.*, its clear and distinct style asserting immediate superiority. Mr. O'Neill's *The Foundling* (70) is another prize of the same value, and possesses many striking merits of character and execution. The scene from Crabbe's 'Parish Register,' which describes the meeting of the village conclave, the naming of the infant, his workhouse training, and his death as Sir Richard Monday, is here represented by a pencil not at all inferior to the pen of the writer in dramatic effect and powerful delineation; it is one of those works in which the genius of the artist has plainly taken delight, and the triumph of successful delineation is recorded in all its lines. The shrewd and benevolent justice, his knavish-looking clerk, and the subordinate figures, down to the nurse and the beadle, are admirably treated. Another picture of similar style in composition, Mr. J. G. Middleton's *The Village Letter-writer* (69), from the National Institution (*ante p.* 550), has been chosen for a 100*l.* prize; and the large sea-piece by Knell, from the Academy, for another. Amongst those of less aspiring dimensions, we are happy to notice Mr. W. H. Phillips's *Magdalen* (44), an original and high-class production, already noticed, from the Academy; Mr. Danby's *Lake Lemna, Switzerland* (98), Mr. Uwins's *Vesper Bell* (110); Mr. Jutsum's very clever view of *Ivy-bridge, Evening* (116), and two of Mr. Hurlstone's Spanish compositions, *The Flower Girl of Seville* (31), and *Saint John's Eve* (17). The faithful and artistic, though mannered studies of wood, mountain scenery, air, water, and foreground, which bear the names of Williams, Boddington, and Gilbert, meet, as they deserve, with much favour, especially the really grand view entitled *A quiet Valley, Autumn, North Wales* (61), by the second above mentioned, which is one of the best landscapes in the room. One of Mr. Hardy's irresistible interiors; a sea-piece by Wilson; Mr. Armfield's animals; and a Dutch scene by Mr. Montague, have all found places in the selection; and the landscapes of Messrs. Clint and G. Cole, Stark and Shayer, assert their popularity. The *Mountaineers* (49), and *Returning from Church* (62), of Mr. Frederick Underhill, have both been chosen from the National Institution, the undisputed merits of their clear and vigorous painting atoning in the eyes of some for their theatrical attitudes and forced colour. Amongst the water-colour drawings, Mr. Collingwood Smith's *Town and Castle of Dieppe* (124), several of Mr. Bennett's leafy scenes, a drawing by John Callow, another by Copley Fielding,

and two artistic performances by David Cox, jun., again grace the walls of the Exhibition.

The figures in statuary porcelain—*Solitude*, by Lawlor; *Innocence*, by Foley; *The Dancing Girl Reposing*, by Marshall; and Gibson's *Narcissus*—though now familiar to the eye of the public, are satisfactory in showing the taste that has guided the Society in their choice.

Amongst the engravings are the prints of the year, namely, *The Surrender of Calais*, in the course of engraving, by Robinson, from the picture by H. C. Selous, which will be ready for distribution about Christmas next; and *The Crucifixion*, after Stilton, by W. Finden.

The accomplished and talented authoress of *Child's Play*, whose designs are distinguished no less for grace and delicacy than for artistic facility and copious invention, has produced a large composition, descriptive of *The Burial Service* in the Protestant church, which has been etched on copper by G. Wenzel, an artist of Rome, and is now published by Messrs. Addey, of New Bond Street. The same qualities that distinguished the drawings in the work above mentioned, are repeated in this instance; and a feminine sympathy of feeling softens the asperities of what might else be severe in the solemn attitudes, aspects, and costumes of grief. The productions of this distinguished amateur have been compared to the outlines of Retzsch, to which they are not equal in the range of varied human emotion embraced in that great composer's works, but which they at least rival in the power of expressing the purest and most graceful sentiment in a few simple lines. The treatment of these groups is founded, however, on the German style, whilst their essential spirit, the refinement of the thought and the delicacy of expression, are original. The etching has been shaded in several tints by a process resembling aquarilla in appearance, and thus brings in light and shade to assist the effects which Retzsch produced by outline alone. The contrast to the mournful scene in front, produced by the children and wreaths of flowers behind, is an effect ever welcome, however frequent it be, in the conceptions of art. The drawing will have a large circle of admirers, and will appeal to many retiring but deep feelings in the breasts of the spectators.

From Italy we learn that the Princess of Canino has resolved on setting on foot fresh excavations in the country lying between the Tiber and the Garigliano, where already so many treasures of art and antiquity have been discovered. The direction of the works will be given to Monsieur Alessandro François, who has the reputation of being an eminent archaeologist.

The commission for purchasing pictures and other works of art at present exhibiting at Antwerp, for the Art Union Lottery, has been entrusted to the Barons Osy and Wappers; Messieurs J. Cuylets, H. Legrelle, E. Geeland, Ed. Tor Bruggen, and Th. Smeken, all members of the royal commission for the encouragement of the Fine Arts in Belgium. The drawing will take place from the 5th to the 15th of October.

Blanc's 'History of the Painters of All Nations.'

(Concluded from our last.)

THE death of Murillo, which was the consequence of a fall from the scaffold while he was painting in the church of the Capuchins, at Cadiz, took place at Seville, on the 3rd April, 1682. The various minor incidents of his tranquil life are related by the writer with the same lively interest, and amidst the comments on his principal pictures, which are generally neither very critical nor very closely descriptive, the following passage of original observation occurs, perhaps the most valuable of any:—"Contrast is the mainspring of Spanish art. Thus we have seen in our own days the French romantic school, based upon contrast, turn its first glance towards the land of Murillo and of Cervantes. From Hernani to Ruy Blas, it is Spain that has furnished the wardrobes of our literary

colourists with their rags and their doublets, the silken *basquine* of the Duchess, and the tattered mantle of Don Caesar. No one has more frequently or more happily made use of contrast than Murillo. We do not thereby mean those abrupt oppositions of light and shade, such as the terrible Ribera affected. Contrast with Murillo shone forth in the philosophy of the picture, by the unexpected approximation of its different qualities, and by the antithesis of thoughts or of character. That he might not come into collision at once with mind and vision, Murillo, contrary to the practice of Spagnoletto, placed the dualism in the action, and the unity in the *chiaro-oscuro*,—the contrast being addressed to the mind, and the harmony to the eye."

The second main object of the work before us has been to supply the description of the artist's life, with the accompanying illustration of engravings after his works; and this has been accomplished in the present instance by woodcuts of his portrait, and of seven of his most celebrated paintings—*The Virgin à la Ceinture*, *A Young Mendicant* (both in the Louvre), *The Conception of the Virgin* (the great painting so lately renowned for its extravagant price of 24,612*l.*), *The Fruit Girl*, *The Holy Family*, *Saint Diego d'Alcala* (another of Marshal Soult's appropriations), and the *Estasy of Saint Francis*. These woodcuts are all of French execution—sometimes in the bold black-and-white style of contrast which is characteristic of the country; at other times sketchy alike in outline and shading, intended, perhaps, to illustrate the successive *Frio*, or dark and firm, *Calido*, or warm, and *Vaporoso*, or misty and vaporous, styles of the painter. The engraving of the *Conception* is remarkably skilful in attempting the variety and picturesqueness of the groups of cherubs; and the last, *Saint Francis*, is a highly-finished piece of wood-cutting, lacking, however, the full completeness of English work, but enclosed in a framing of the boldest Louis Quatorze design, which is itself well-deserving of attention. Whatever be the merits of the illustrations, they at any rate succeed in representing both the composition and the arrangement of light and shade in the originals—two points in which reside some of their greatest merits. The notes by Mr. Wyatt that accompany M. Blanc's essay are valuable; whilst the appendix, containing a list of the artist's works, might evidently, and at first sight, be rendered far more full and complete; and this we think an omission of some importance; but in the subordinate merits of printing and paper, the work is beautifully executed. We sincerely wish the undertaking the fullest success, admiring the enterprise of its promoters, but at the same time hoping the importance and extent of its pretensions will be always kept in view by its authors, and adequately consulted throughout.

MUSIC.

THE season at HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, which closed on Saturday with Rossini's *Barbiere di Siviglia* and the new ballet of *Zélie*, has been marked by few notable events, and, on the whole, has been far from satisfactory. A succession of untoward circumstances, including the Wagner dispute, the non-appearance of Madame Sontag, the abrupt disappearance of several favourites, and at length the public announcement of financial distress, have given a sombre cast to the records of the season. Nevertheless, there have been various events worthy of more cheerful notice. Madame de la Grange, who made a successful *début* as *Lucia di Lammermoor*, on the 22nd of May, has since sustained the expectation formed at her first appearance. Her full soprano voice, the upper notes of which are remarkably clear, has been educated to a florid execution, producing brilliancy of effect, which has been surpassed by few singers. In her acting she is deficient in passion and force, but always full of taste and grace. Later in the season the new baritone, Signor de Bassini, first appeared as *Figaro* in the *Barbiere*, with Madame de la Grange as *Rosina*. De Bassini's *début* was also

successful, and he has proved a valuable acquisition. With neither his singing nor acting can criticism find fault, and the improvement which will secure warmer praise he is sure to acquire through experience and study. The appearance of Madame Charton towards the close of the season was another prosperous circumstance. Without being capable of highest effects, she always pleases by her correct taste and unaffected skill both as an actress and singer. On others who made their first appearance at Her Majesty's Theatre during this season, from Ferlotti, who was the *Enrico* in *Maria de Rohan*, on the opening night, down to Negrini, who was heard towards the close, we abstain from any remarks supplementary to those which we have from time to time made on occasion of their particular performances. As to Signor Lablache, and other less conspicuous, but equally meritorious artistes in their sphere, whose names have been long associated with Her Majesty's Theatre, any critical comments would at present be out of place, but we cannot avoid a passing tribute of praise to the honourable heartiness with which they have stuck to the fortunes of the house during so trying a season. Appreciation of this has added not a little to the enthusiasm of the applause latterly elicited by Lablache's artistic excellence. For the share in the history of the season taken by Sofie Cruvelli, Angri, Favanti, Belletti, Gardoni, Calzolari, and others, we must refer to our weekly reports; as also for our estimate of the services of Mr. Balfe and his orchestra, and the novelties and merits of the *ballet* department, in which the season, if not of unusual brilliancy, was not marked by any of the heavy disappointments which have rendered its general history somewhat unsatisfactory. By Madame Guy Stephan, Mademoiselles Rosa, Esper, Lamoreux, Rosati, Fleury, the Spanish danseuse, Donna Pepita Oliva, Ferle, Robert, M. Durand, and others, the reputation of the house in this department was well sustained throughout the season. With the exception of the Duke of Saxe Cobourg's *Casilda*, of which we gave particular account (*ante*, page 613), there has been nothing of sufficient novelty or importance in the bringing forward of operas to call for special comment in these retrospective remarks. The disappointments connected with Johanna Wagner's failure threw the direction early upon the old *répertoire*, of which as good use has been made as could be done under the circumstances. The want of the usual amount of support counted on from subscribers is to be lamented, and the sudden transfer of patronage by many of the old supporters of Her Majesty's Theatre to the rival house was the result of a capricious spirit and other mixed motives little creditable to those by whom the success of the season was thus materially affected. Mr. Lumley deserves praise for the manner in which he continued to conduct the management, and the success of the concluding portion of the season must have proved doubly gratifying to the noblemen and gentlemen who, with much public spirit and generous feeling, came forward to prevent the premature closing of the house, which was at one time anticipated. We understand that there is every prospect of next season being commenced under happier auspices, and with the certainty of a more prosperous course.

At the ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA on Thursday, *The Huguenots* was performed for the last time this season. The only new feature in the representation was the appearance, for the first time in this character, of Mdlle. Bosio, as *Queen Margarita*. Her acting was dignified and expressive, and some of the pieces, such as the arias at the close of the second scene, and in the sixth, and the duet in the tenth scene of the first act, she sang with fine effect. Altogether she bore the part as effectively as could be done in the absence of Madame Castellani. Grisi and Mario were in fine voice, and received the enthusiastic applause of an unusually crowded house.

The success attending the first season of the QUARTETT ASSOCIATION, which closed on the 30th June, has induced the able performers, Messrs. Sainton, Cooper, Hill, and Piatti, to announce a

similar series of concerts for next year. To the musical public the advantage of such professional associations are apparent. It is only by long habit of playing together that the same musicians can approach a perfect performance of concerted music. Some of the quartetts were performed at Willis's Rooms this summer, with an effect which no quartett of artists, meeting only for a single occasion, could have equalled. Mr. G. A. Macfarren will continue to write analytical notices of the works to be performed. The concerts of next season will, as hitherto, be varied by pianoforte music, executed by pianists of the highest eminence. The subscription list is now opened, and we hope that the artists will receive such encouragement as will enable them to devote that time to practice during the winter recess, which will secure even more finished performances, if possible, than during last season.

There has been no novelty at Paris during the week. The Théâtre National is to re-open on the 1st September, with a new three-act opera by Ad. Adam. It is now said that Mr. Lumley will, after all, be allowed to continue the management of the Italian Theatre; but it is anticipated that he will have a difficult season. The popular ballet of *La Giselle* has been revived at the Grand Opera. A Mdlle. Regina Forli, a young and pretty Italian, has *débuté* in it in the principal character with considerable success.

Verdi, the composer, has had the cross of the Legion of Honour conferred on him.

THE DRAMA.

THE dramatic performances of the week being confined to the Haymarket and Olympic theatres, both houses, notwithstanding the warm weather, are nightly crowded. The chief attraction at the HAYMARKET is the revival of the pretty little comedieta, *Good Night, Signor Pantaloni*. The sprightly lover of the Louis Quatorze age is sustained with great vivacity by Miss Woolgar, and the scene of fright between Mr. Bedford and Miss Fitzwilliam, under an impression that they had thrown him into the canal, is one of the richest bits of comedy on the modern stage. We regret to learn that this accomplished and rising actress is about to leave Mr. Webster's company.

The only thing worth noticing in the Paris news is a very smart vaudeville at the Palais Royal, called the *Misanthrope*. The principal character, well played by Sainville, is represented to be disgusted with human kind, on account of their falsity, and he takes an *Auvergnat* as his servant, under the express condition that he shall on all occasions speak the whole truth. This honest servitor executes his contract to the very letter, and gets his master into several disagreeable scrapes accordingly—such as making him lend money when he said he had none,—receive visitors, who challenge him to fight a duel when he wanted to be “not at home,”—and so on. The misanthropical lover of truth believes at last in the expediency of a good deal of lying in order to get quietly and pleasantly through life. The moral is objectionable, but the piece is decidedly amusing.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Paris, August 25th.

WE have more than once had occasion to refer to the negotiations which for some time past have been pending between France and Belgium for the renewal of a commercial treaty, in which the suppression of literary piracy by the latter country, and the mutual protection of literary and artistic property by both, was to form an indispensable condition. The matter was surrounded by difficulties of a commercial and political nature, and it was seriously feared that they were too formidable to be got over. At one time the negotiations were actually broken off; but by the good sense of the French and Belgian governments an arrangement has been come to, and we have now the satisfaction of an-

nouncing that a treaty, by which Belgium binds herself to put down the piracy of French works within her territory, has been signed—France, in return, undertaking not only to protect the original literary and artistic productions of Belgium, but to allow books printed in that country to be imported into France at a moderate duty. The advantage which French authors and publishers will gain from the annihilation of the piracy system will be immense; and it is hoped that as workmen's wages are lower, and paper cheaper in Belgium than in France, French publishers will be induced to get some of their works printed there, in which case the vast printing establishments of Belgium will not suffer very materially from the suppression of piracy. The treaty is to remain in force for ten years, and is to commence in January next. It is impossible not to rejoice greatly at the signing of this important document—though, to be sure, the English have no direct interest in it—for it is the proscription and destruction of literary robbery in its great European stronghold. It is right, however, to add, that the treaty cannot be considered as definitive until sanctioned by the Belgian Chambers, and that a strong opposition to it is being got up by interested parties in order to influence the Chambers. But the measure is so righteous in itself that it is impossible to believe that any legislature can deliberately set it aside. The United States will consequently remain the only great country in which literary piracy is perpetrated under the sanction of the laws.

By order of the Minister of General Police further restrictions are to be placed on the hawking and sale of cheap publications in the country districts. No work, in fact, and no lithograph or engraving are henceforth to be sold by hawkers in any department until they shall have received the formal approbation of, and been stamped by, the Prefect. The ostensible object of this measure is to prevent the sale of immoral works: the real one, to check the clandestine circulation of pamphlets and publications hostile to the Government. The effect of it will be to reduce the trade of hawkers almost to nothing. Now, it is by hawking that a vast portion of the book-selling business is done in France; two-thirds at least of the cheaper class of publications, in particular, are disposed of in that way. The ministerial measure, then, is another “heavy blow and great discouragement” to the publishing trade, which has been so sadly depressed of late; and that blow is struck precisely at that branch of it which happens to be more flourishing than any other. For some time past an immense sale has been effected of reprints of the works of George Sand, Balzac, Dumas, Sue, Molière, Racine, Corneille, Voltaire, Rousseau, Walter Scott, Byron, Cooper, Diderot, Buffon, Anquetil, Goethe, and others of more or less renown in different walks of literature. Brought out in parts, at the small price of four sous each, these works were placed within the reach of the very poorest classes of the community, and it is very creditable to those classes to have purchased them so largely. The Minister of Police, however, thinks that reading is mischievous, and he has taken the most effectual means possible for checking it. Subjected to the harassing and humiliating restrictions he has imposed,—restrictions which will of course be rendered more obnoxious in the arbitrary hands the departmental prefects—the reprinting of standard works will be woefully diminished—perhaps altogether destroyed. No publisher will be so mad as to risk much capital in producing works, the sale of which has not only to be sanctioned by the agents of the Central Government at Paris, but by not fewer than eighty-six petty potentates in the provinces.

At the Peace Congress held last summer in London, the French workmen delegated to attend the Great Exhibition appeared, and were cordially greeted by the pacific assembly. On the proposal of Mr. Hadfield, of Manchester, it was resolved to present a silver medal to each of the fifteen delegates, as a record of the event, and a medal, designed by Mr. Bennett, has been struck, of much artistic beauty, bearing on one side the dove with olive-branch, descending on the earth, encircled

with the words:—"Gloire soit à Dieu dans les lieux très hauts, que la Paix soit sur la terre, envers les hommes bonne volonté;" and on the reverse, surrounded by a wreath—"Aux quinze ouvriers Parisiens, qui ont si habilement représentés leurs confrères de la France au Congrès de la Paix, à Londres, 22, 23, 24 Juillet, 1851." On the edge of each medal is the name of the delegate. Mr. Henry Vincent was charged with the duty of conveying these medals to Paris, and although any public meeting on the occasion was impossible under the present government, there was much opportunity for interchange of national regard and sympathy. M. Girardin, the editor of 'La Presse,' invited the fifteen workmen to an entertainment at his house, and in the presence of some friends the gifts were bestowed. From other distinguished men of literature and politicians Mr. Vincent received courteous aid in the object of his mission. An ably-written and generous address has since been received from Paris, addressed to Mr. Vincent and the Friends of Peace in England, signed by Pierre Vincard "in the name of fifteen Parisian workmen delegated to the Great Exhibition."

Statues of Bernardin St. Pierre and Casimir Delavigne, recently erected at Havre, were inaugurated on Monday with a good deal of pomp. All the local authorities in grand costume, all the judges in ermine robes, the great military dignitaries, many eminent men in different walks of life, deputations from a dozen adjacent towns and a dozen academies, took part in the ceremony, and the whole of the townspeople considered the day a fete. Yet the two men to whom all this honour was done were simple authors—neither of the highest rank. Ah! how different is this way of esteeming the literary merit of the dead to what we see in England! There, Shakspeares and Miltons, and others greater far than any France can boast of, are left statueless; their worthy countrymen evidently thinking that, as Horace said, their works are more durable than brass, and that it is well to economise the cost of bronze or marble.

Although Count d'Orsay was but little known in Paris, and had only resided here a short time, he contrived to make himself extraordinarily popular amongst authors and artists. He seems to have spared no pains to do a good turn to any one when it was in his power; and it was entirely owing to his remonstrances that every literary man of note was not exiled or imprisoned after the *coup d'état* of December. George Sand has written a letter to the newspapers, complimenting him highly, and expressing regret that she did not know him longer. Pierre Dupont, the poet, has composed a string of verses in his honour; and painters and sculptors have literally vied with one another in stating their obligations to him. His death has left quite a void amongst the sons of the pen, the pencil, and the chisel. By the way, the English newspapers, I perceive, have suppressed the fact that, by his express desire, he was interred in the same tomb as the Countess of Blessington.

The newspapers have caused some little surprise in the literary circles by announcing that the Prince-President of the Republic has just granted 5000*l.* pension to a lineal descendant of Corneille. It was not known that the great poet had left any direct descendants, still less that they were in want. If in want they were, the fault must have been entirely their own, inasmuch as they must have had the same claim on the Government for a pension as the descendants of Racine, who have long been in receipt of one.

VARIETIES.

Electro-telegraphic Progress.—It has been found by experiment that a battery of two plates at Greenwich has sufficient power to liberate the ball of 186 lbs. weight now erected in the Strand, and the necessary wires for the complete working of the telegraphic time-ball system are nearly ready, but an announcement that it would be put in operation on Thursday in last week was premature. The electric dial in the centre of the thoroughfares opposite Hungerford market has been fixed on its

ornamented bronze pillar, and at night illuminated. The dial-plates are formed of enamelled glass, with the hours and minutes marked in stained glass on the base, and the pillar is surmounted by a gilt ball. The great ball or regulator is of a bright vermilion, sashed with a gilt circle.—*Builder.*

Manchester Free Library.—The result of the poll, for the purpose of obtaining the requisite sanction of the burgesses of Manchester, in favour of applying the provisions of the Public Libraries and Museums Act for the future support of the Free Library, was a most decisive and creditable test of public opinion. Nearly 4,000 votes were recorded in support of the proposition, whilst the dissentients only numbered a miserable minority of 40.—*Manchester Examiner.*

M. Thiers.—M. Thiers was at Vevay, in Switzerland, when he received the news of the decree of the 7th inst., authorising his return to Paris. This news caused him a pleasure which he loudly expressed. M. Thiers bore the weight of his exile with great grief, and the moment he heard of the decree he eagerly commenced preparations for his departure. For many years past M. Thiers has always passed his summer out of Paris, and this year he had arranged to spend several months at Vevay. He is, however, now so anxious to avail himself of the authorization to return to Paris, that on Wednesday or Thursday he will be at his residence in the Place St. Georges.—*Pays.*

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